**John 15:18-20 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. 19If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.**

When you are in Jesus, you are different from the world. Some need to stop a minute and listen to what I am saying – when you are living by the Word, in the Word, for the Word, in Jesus, you are different from the world and the world will not like you, will not accept you, will not hear you, will not love you – why? Because we are not of this world, we are only in the world. We are not residents, we are aliens. We are not home, we are only passing through. You say, “I feel out of place.” Praise God. “I don’t understand how the world thinks!” Praise God! “I don’t feel like I belong.” Praise God. You don’t. You are in Jesus, you are different from the world. Simply know that we are ambassadors to this place and one day we will go home where we really belong, but it probably won’t be today.

In our verses this morning, Jesus says - *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.* The world loves darkness. John 3:19-21 *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”* Jesus brought light, connection with God, and the world could not comprehend it and rejected Him. It rejected Him. It will reject you.

John 15:19 says *If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.* If the world loves you it’s because you are of the world. Satan is ruler of this world and he will not interfere with those practicing darkness because they are doing his work. He sees their evil deeds and he approves. But Jesus chose us out of this world. Listen to what Jesus says in Matthew 22:14 - *For many are called, but few are chosen.* He says something similar in Matthew 20:16 *So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.* In both cases, the word for called means invited and the word for chosen is elektos… meaning elected or selected. Many are invited to accept Jesus, but only a few will be the elect. Those who believe, call out, repent, and follow are the elect. What have they done? They have rejected the darkness and turned to the light, they have rejected evil and turned to holiness and the world hates them because evil hates the light, the lost hate the elect, the world does not love those who are not of this world.

Anyone who has traveled to foreign countries knows the feeling of being a stranger in a strange land, a sojourner, being different. Traffic laws are different. The police are different. The houses look different, the food tastes different, the land lays different, the language may be different, even the people may look different. When I traveled to Japan, anyone who saw me knew I wasn’t from around there. When I was in Korea, they could spot me from a mile away. I was in their country, but I was not of their country. We spoke a different language and it took effort to understand one another.

We should not be surprised when those that are of the world don’t understand our language, our ways, or the very Word of God that we live on day by day. We don’t speak the same language and, when we’re following Jesus, we look so different that some cannot even comprehend us. (Galatians 5) But, those who turn and want to understand, we must be ready to make an effort! We don’t know if we are looking in the face of one accepting the invitation of Jesus to move from called to chosen, from invited to elect, and we are the ambassador that Christ has chosen to help them move from darkness into Light.

Then Jesus gives us a reminder - John 15:20 *Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ (John 13:16) If they persecuted Me, they* ***will*** *also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.* A servant is not greater than his Master. A copy is not more valuable than the Original. A student is not above the Teacher. The elect is not greater than the Elector. Why are we shocked at what we see in a world that is not our permanent home? Why do we move from the freshness of Heaven to the poison of this world and complain that our lungs burn? Take a fish and lay it on the shore, see it struggle. It is on the land, but it belongs in the water. We are in the world, but we belong in the Light. Evil hates light, darkness cannot comprehend it, men loved the darkness and that is their condemnation.

One of the most interesting animals I know of is called the Lung Fish. It has the ability to breathe on land for months, walk on land, it can find food on the land, but it sure does prefer the water. This week, let’s think about how we’re dealing with being in the world, but not of the world. Make peace today - You will always feel out of place, you will never understand how the world thinks, you must never decide to belong. We are ambassadors to this place and one day we will go home, where every breath is sweet and the light shines all the time. If we are light and we go into the Light, we finally belong. Until then, be that stranger in this strange land, witnessing to the invited so that one day they may also become the elect, bound for home in the Light.