



## 1/7/24 Message — “How to Be Hated in 3 Simple Steps”

**CONNECT:** Would you ever try doing a “polar plunge” in an ice pod?

### **GROW:**

1. How do you handle people not liking you, especially because of what you believe in/stand for? Is it something you’re extremely uncomfortable with and try to avoid at all costs, or is it something that doesn’t bother you too much/you’ve gotten used to?
2. Last week, we talked about **Luke 22:54**, which notes how Peter followed “at a distance” before denying Jesus three times. Now read **Matthew 12:30**.
  - What does it mean to be truly “with Jesus”?
  - Has there ever been a time when you’ve “taken a bullet” because of standing with Jesus?
3. Read **John 14:6**. Do you believe this wholeheartedly, or do you struggle sometimes to believe Jesus is the ONLY way? (Remember that we are all in different places in our journeys with the Lord, and this is a safe space to process doubts!)
4. Scott pinpointed four different groups on opposite sides of the spectrum who all have a problem with the “real Jesus” and those who follow Him: *religious legalists, religious progressives, false religions, and corrupt governments*. Where do you see this tension the most today? When have you been accused of showing too much grace, delivering too much truth, being too exclusive, or being too expansive?
5. Scott outlined our task as followers of Jesus in 3 simple (not easy, but simple) steps:
  - We make a clear declaration: Jesus is king.
  - We make a clear invitation: Repent and come home.
  - We make clear our motivation. Love for everyone.

If you call yourself a follower of Jesus, what needs to change in order for you to be fully committed to being with Him and being devoted to this mission?

**PRAY:** Thank Jesus for the ways He is moving in our lives, our church, and our world. Pray for the boldness to stand with Him no matter how difficult it may become, wisdom in navigating grace and truth, humility to admit when we miss the mark, and motivation to keep growing and learning how to do this well in our world today.

**NEXT:** Take some time this week to talk with the Lord and recommit yourself to this mission. Talk to Him about where you feel shaky in your commitment to Him or your ability to point others to Him, and ask Him to equip you and provide you with opportunities to grow in this way.