

22 April 2026

## Hoops

Jumping through hoops in this life. As we go through this life we need to do certain things at certain times. It feels like a waste of time. We are on this earth to serve God but the ones we want to reach are not of God's world. To reach them we have got to do what is needed. Background checks, training, and all sorts of other requirements. When we go through this we need to remember:

### John 15:18-25

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.'<sup>[b]</sup> If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'<sup>[c]</sup>

When Christ called us out of this world, we no longer conform to its ways. Remember in the sermon on the mound Jesus gave many rules different from what society thinks.

He mentioned if you want to be rich sell everything and give it away. This is because our riches are in heaven. When we run into people who want to rule over us and hurt us this is different than Jesus. He gave the first example of servant leadership. So, remember the world thinks differently than us. Just like if you travel into a foreign country, their customs are different. In the same country when you believe differently, you live differently.

### John 17:11-19

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of<sup>[b]</sup> your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by<sup>[c]</sup> that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup>“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by<sup>[d]</sup> the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Remember he loved us so much this was a prayer for us, even the believers 2000 years later.

Keep faith,

Chaplain Tony