

A WORSHIP MINUTE

The scripture reading for today is JOHN 15:1-25...

As we continue exploring the 7 "I am" sayings of Jesus, we come to the last one chronologically.

Contrasting light and darkness is a common thread throughout John's Gospel.

In John 15, there is the contrast between love and hate.

Jesus, referring to Himself as the true vine, speaks first of love and then of how this love will also bring hate.

It can be hard to imagine a more powerful and hurtful word than hate.

As Jesus says in verse 18 from John 25, the world to which He ministered hated Him.

- How does it make you feel to consider the fact that they hated Jesus?
- How do you feel when you consider that because of your belief in Him the world may hate you too?
- Have you ever felt hated because of your love for Jesus? If so, how did it affect your faith and commitment to Him?
- How is, that one so dedicated and guided by love, can be disliked (hated) so fiercely?
- How can we reconcile our deep capacity for love, and also for hate?
- Might it be that the pruning Jesus is talking about in the opening verses of John 25 have something to do with hate?
- What needs to be pruned from you and your life in order for you to bear faithful fruit?

Consider these and other questions (as God so leads you) as you prepare your heart to worship the great "I am".