

# John 12vs27-50

Why Jesus must die...

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# Why Jesus must die...

## John 12 vs 27-50

### *Setting the scene*

In the last study we saw that John 12 is a chapter all about Jesus' death. It matches John 18 and 19 which describe Jesus' death. The point being made is that the LIFE Jesus brings comes through HIS DEATH.

John 12 explains for us what Jesus' death achieves. It is made up of six sections. In the last study (ch 12 vs 1-26) we looked at:

- 1) Jesus' Death and our Devotion - vs 1-11
- 2) Jesus' Death and his Royal Identity – vs 12-19
- 3) Jesus' Death and his Life for the World - vs 20-26

Now we move to:

- 4) Jesus' Death and the Defeat of Satan - vs 27-36
- 5) Jesus' Death and the People's Blindness – vs 36 -43
- 6) Jesus' Death and Light ...or Darkness – vs 44 -50

We start with....

### *Jesus' Death and the Defeat of Satan*

Read John 12 vs 27-36: *“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgement of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup> So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”*

The section begins with Jesus agonising over his death... and concludes that his death is the REASON why he came:

Read v 27: *“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.”*

The voice from heaven underlines that this is a key moment in the life and work of Jesus:  
v 28: Jesus says, **“Father, glorify your name.”**

v 28: And Heaven speaks: ***Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”***

It is hard to imagine that Jesus’ death on the cross - in weakness and shame - might be THE moment of God’s GLORY!!

God speaks in order to show us that this really is HIS demonstration of HIS GLORY!!

How can this possibly be??

Jesus spells out for us what his death will achieve:

Read vs 31-32: *“Now is the judgement of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”*

How can these things ONLY be accomplished through the death of Jesus?

## **Judgement**

The judgement of the world:

Read v 31: *“Now is the judgement of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.”*

The world = all rebellious creation INCLUDING Humanity.

- In what sense is the world ‘judged’ at the cross?
  - ...The wickedness of a world prepared to crucify its Creator is shown at the cross.
- At the cross we see what OUR rebellion against God deserves – THE ANGER OF GOD!
- This is the point where the world goes one of two ways:
  - ...The world turns away from God – through rejecting the cross... OR
  - ...The world turns to God – recognising Christ’s supreme sacrifice... an act for all time.

## Victory

Satan is defeated at the cross:

- The only “hold” that Satan has over us is the fact that God should punish us for our sin... (technically of course this is not Satan’s ‘hold’ but rather God’s demand)
- BUT once the price for our sin has been paid in full on the cross... well then... the devil has lost his stranglehold over us:

v 31: *“Now is the judgement of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.”*

So Satan is left impotent by the cross.

Paul records this in his letter to the Colossians:

Read Colossians 2 v 15: *He [God] disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him [Jesus].*

## Salvation

Jesus’ people are drawn to him through his work on the cross:

Read v 32: *“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”*

- “I will draw ALL people to myself” ...so it’s not just for the Jews then.
- ...And that means ALL kinds of people from all over the world will become believers and members of God’s family through the death of Jesus on the cross.

Read v 33: *He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.*

- He is talking fundamentally of the cross

Remember Jesus’ statement in ch 12 v 24:

ch 12 v 24: : *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit.”*

Compare this with:

- the fact that he has shown all things relate to the cross:
  - The world is judged - v 31: ***“Now is the judgment of this world...”***
  - Satan is cast out - v 31: ***“...now will the ruler of this world be cast out.”***
  - God’s people are gathered at the cross:

v 32: ***“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”***

- what Caiaphas (the Jewish High Priest that year) said in ch 11:

ch 11 v 50: ***“Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”***

### **“Father, GLORIFY YOUR NAME”**

Why does God say in v28: ***“I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again”?***

- Because God is about to glorify his name at the cross...

How has God glorified his name?

- JUDGEMENT!  
v 31a: ***“Now is the judgment of this world...”***
- VICTORY!  
v 31b: ***“...now will the ruler of this world be cast out.”***
- SALVATION!  
v 32: ***“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”***

On the basis of what Jesus’ death achieves, Jesus now appeals to the crowd to respond:

Read v 35: ***So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.”***

## *Jesus' Death and the People's Blindness*

Read ch 12 vs 36-43: *While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.*” When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup> *Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,* <sup>38</sup> *so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*

*“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*

<sup>39</sup> *Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,*

<sup>40</sup> *“He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their heart,  
lest they see with their eyes,  
and understand with their heart, and turn,  
and I would heal them.”*

<sup>41</sup> *Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.* <sup>42</sup> *Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*

What was the reaction of “the people” to all that Jesus did?

v 37: *Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him...*

Jesus now turns to two favourite sections of Isaiah in order to explain the response of the people to his teaching about his death:

### Section One

700+ years before Jesus' ministry, Isaiah had prophesied God's revealing himself powerfully.

Read Isaiah ch 53 v 1: *“Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”*

➤ This is precisely what John quotes in ch 12 v 38.

This is a KEY quote. Isaiah tells us in ch 53 that God “bares his holy arm” and reveals his work in and through the DEATH of his suffering Servant.

God's “**arm**” has now been revealed to all... even beyond the Jews... through the lifting up of Jesus on the cross...

...BUT some will reject, just as we have seen the Pharisees reject both the signs of Jesus and his word.

## Section Two:

John 12 v 40:

*“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”*

This is a quote from Isaiah 6 that comes immediately AFTER Isaiah’s famous vision and call. In this section God explains why so few would respond to Isaiah’s ministry... and the reason is shocking...

...the hearts of some people are so hardened that they lose the opportunity to even see!

Read Isaiah 6 v 10:

*“Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”*

Blinded eyes... Hardened hearts... Unable to turn... Unable to be healed.

In other words, God had promised to respond to their unbelief by closing their eyes, blocking their ears and deadening their hearts. Now this is being fulfilled...

- “Choose to reject... and your damnation will be... yours.”

Back to John 12...

John 12 v 41: *Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.*

Isaiah knew the Saviour’s glory... and foretold what the Saviour would be like and what would happen to him...

...so it’s no surprise that Isaiah also makes clear what is to happen to those who WILL not believe!

- This is a really serious warning. If we go on rejecting Jesus’ truth there will come a point where judgement falls on us forever...

v 37: *Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him...*

But it wasn’t just that they “**did not believe...**”

v 39: ***Therefore they could not believe.***

- This should be a STARK warning to us today!!

Now read v 42: *Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue...*

Some did believe... but out of fear of man, and loss of ‘position’ or ‘face’ with fellow man, **‘they did not confess it...’**

- In the face of who Jesus is – this is rejecting him, isn't it?

v 43: *...for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*

- What a ridiculous state of affairs!
- WHAT can man possibly offer us in comparison with the almighty Creator God of the Universe?!
- Yet... can we see ourselves being like those in this verse?

So... let's summarise this part of the passage:

- 1) How applicable is the WARNING in these verses for US?!
- 2) What did the people fail to do?

Read v 42: *Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue...*

- 3) Could you see this fear of confessing Christ happening in the City of London today... or perhaps in your place of work?!

## ***Jesus' Death and Light... or Darkness***

We finish by reading vs 44-50:

vs 44 – 50: *And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. <sup>45</sup> And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup> If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."*

Let's look at vs 44-46 in more detail:

vs 44-46: *And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. <sup>45</sup> And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*



These verses are a clarion call - an INVITATION TO US... whose hearts have NOT yet been hardened:

We all have to ask – where do we stand? Which are we?

- Believing ...
- ...or remaining in darkness?

Read vs 47-48: *If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup>The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*

- Quite simply... it's a VERY dangerous position to be in.

## **Conclusion**

Ch 12 has been all about the death of Jesus.

We have seen:

- a right response of devotion (vs 1-11)
- a reminder of who is going to the cross (vs 12-19)
- a lesson on the “fruit” of Jesus death – LIFE!! (vs 20-26)
- an explanation of what the cross achieved: judgement, Jesus’ victory and how he draws his people to himself (vs 27-36)
- a warning for those who refuse to respond (vs 36-43)
- ...and an appeal to come out of darkness and into the light (vs 44- 50)

## **Thought-provokers...**

- What have YOU learned about the death of Jesus?
- Are you in the light... or are still rejecting him... in favour of the darkness?

## **Next time...**

The Servant King...

## *John 12 vs 27-50*

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