

Summary Sheet for John 12vs20-50

...to accompany Notes 23



GOAL of this 1-2-1 study

Grasp the huge significance and centrality of Jesus' death and believe

Context – how does this passage fit in?

Ch 12 makes it clear that the resurrection 'life' that Jesus brings (ch11) can only come through his death – this is the 'hour' that has been mentioned so often that Jesus has been waiting for, the moment of his glory. vs 20-36 now emphasise the central purpose and huge achievements of Jesus' death – glory for both Jesus and his Father, the judgement of the world, the overthrow of Satan, the drawing of all kinds of people to God.

We also come to the end of Jesus' public ministry as people refuse to believe and the Cross seems to be the final stumbling block, a defining reason why people don't believe (v34, 38 & 43) and this unbelief brings judgement (v39) and results in missing out on eternal life (v48-50).

Impact on us

Do we realise the massive achievements that Jesus' death accomplished? Can we see its centrality? Will we make it central to our lives and be honoured by God (v26) or will we prefer the glory of men v46)?

How John writes to make his point

John shows us how significant Jesus' death is by piling up explosive statements from Jesus' about the centrality of the Cross in achieving God's plan and purpose and showing us that even unbelief in the Cross and the resulting judgement of hardened hearts is part of God's plan.

Structure

Jesus' death is central to his mission and should be central to our lives

12v20-23 – The interest of the Greeks (nations) triggers the arrival of Jesus' hour of glorification – his death

12v24-26 – Jesus' death is essential for life and forms the pattern for discipleship

12v27-33 – Jesus' death will accomplish: the Father's glory, the judgement of the world, the overthrow of Satan, the drawing of people from all nations to God .

12v34 – Jesus' death turns the crowd off

12v35-36a – Jesus warns that his imminent death means it is urgent they respond to the light

12v36b-41 – Unbelief in Jesus' death and resulting judgement have been promised in the OT

12v42-43 – Some believers prefer the glory of men rather than God's (cross – shaped) glory

12v44-50 – Underlines why we should listen to Jesus (when he speaks about his death) as he is perfectly in line with his Father and provides the way to eternal life.

John's references to the Old Testament and why they matter

- "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us..."

This quote is taken from Isaiah ch 53v1, the famous chapter that most clearly describes the innocent 'servant' dying in the place of rebellious people in order to save them from God's wrath at their rejection of Him. This opening verse expresses the surprise that God's people feel when they are met with widespread unbelief as they seek to tell others of the arrival and death of God's suffering servant. John uses the quote to show how this has been fulfilled by Israel's dismissal of their Cross bound Messiah, so we are not thrown off course by widespread rejection of Jesus' death.

- "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart..."

This is taken from Isaiah ch6v10: after God's historic people have persistently, arrogantly and horrifically rejected him, God finally sends Isaiah to pronounce judgement on them – if the people don't *want* to listen to him, they then will not be *able* to listen to him. In John ch12v39-40, John says a similar event is happening as people consistently refused to take any heed of God's king, Jesus as he persistently invites and warns them.

Some questions to help guide someone else through ch 12vs20-50

Opener: How would you answer if someone asked, "How would things be different for the world if Jesus' death on the Cross hadn't happened?"

Considering the text1: Read through v20-33 and list what Jesus' death achieves and particularly how it reveals God's glory in v31-33?

Considering the text2: From v33 & 34, why has the crowd's attitude to Jesus changed from what it was in v12-13? What is Jesus' warning to them in v34-36a?

Considering the text3: We are now seeing the end of Jesus' public ministry. John uses Isaiah 53.1 and Isaiah 6 (see v1-5 and v8-10) to help us understand that the wilful unbelief of many in Israel is part of God's plan and leads to judgement. Why does John want us to know this?

Considering the text4: Put Jesus' final public message in v44-50 in your own words. How does it give us confidence in Jesus' work and underline the tragic implications of their unbelief?

One to keep chewing on: How are v41-43 a challenge to us personally? What might it involve for us to fall into the same error? What is the antidote in this passage?