

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 12

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John.

And we have come to the point in the Gospel of John where we find Jesus, in the shadow of the cross.

Jesus knows that He is days away from having to endure the cross.

He knows that time was running out, the 'day' of grace was coming to an end—and a decision needed to be made.

And so, Jesus makes a final impassioned plea to the people of Israel and its leadership to receive Him as Messiah and Savior before it was too late!

Let's pray...

Read text –

So, before we dissect our text, I think it is important to remind ourselves of the context of what's going on.

Jesus has made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem

And we saw in our text last week that certain Greeks wanted to meet Him.

They had come to Jerusalem to worship the God of the Jews, to celebrate the Passover.

And while they were in Jerusalem, whether it was the triumphal entry or they heard that Jesus had raised Lazarus or the incident at the temple when Jesus overturned the tables – something drove them to seek Jesus.

We don't know their true motives –

We don't even know if they were being sincere in coming to Jesus – they could have been seeking just intellectual knowledge like many of the other Greeks.

And when Jesus' disciples told Him that this Greeks wanted to meet Him – Jesus said, not without the cross.

There is a requirement in meeting Jesus and a requirement to be a follower of Jesus – and it starts off with the cross.

Not only acknowledging what Jesus did on the cross – but us following His example and dying to self.

You see church, Jesus didn't simply tell us to do it – He gave us the example to follow.

Look back at verse 23 again, **“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.**

Jesus is announcing –“It's time”

And He tells us in the next three verse what it's time for -

He is about to die

He is going to become the grain of wheat – that falls into the ground and dies – in order to produce much grain.

And now – look at verse 27

[Jhn 12:27-36 NKJV] 27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

Here in verse 27 – as Jesus is in the shadow of the cross, He announces, My soul is troubled???

The Greek word that is used here is the word, tarrazo –

And it is a word that can be translated as severely distressed, agitated, and anguished.

It is the same word that Matthew used to describe the disciples in the boat when they saw Jesus walking on water. (Matt 14)

It is the same word that Luke uses to describe Zacharias (JTB dad) when the angel appeared to him and told him that he and Elizabeth were going to have a son (Luke 1:12)

It is the same word that Jesus, Himself uses later on when He addresses His disciples the night before He was crucified

[Jhn 14:1 NKJV] 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

BTW – this is not the only time that the scriptures tell us that His soul was troubled – We saw it a few weeks ago when He has the encounter with Mary of Bethany – when she falls at His feet and she says, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11:32)

We will see it in a few weeks when Jesus makes the announcement to His disciples that one of them was going to betray Him. (John 13:21)

So why was Jesus’ soul troubled?

Was it the physical suffering that He was about to endure?

Remember, Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to Him.

He told His disciples over and over again.

They are going to arrest Me

They are going to beat Me

They are going to crucify Me

Think about what you go through when the dentist schedules you to undergo a root canal or have your wisdom teeth pulled out.

You begin to go through the entire procedure over and over again in your head.

Jesus anticipated the flogging – His flesh being ripped from His back

He anticipated the cross of thorns being pushed onto His head

Jesus anticipated the pain of nails going through His hands and feet

He anticipated the suffocation / the grasping for breath

He anticipated the shame of hanging naked from the cross.

But church – let me be clear, this is not the reason that His soul was troubled.

As bad as the physical punishment was –

Jesus was troubled by the divine wrath He was about to endure.

The cross was where the wrath of a holy God was poured out on Him

That is why Luke records that at the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays -

[Luk 22:42 NKJV] 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

What is the cup?

He's not talking about nails.

He's not talking about physical pain and suffering.

He's talking about God's divine wrath that was meant for you and me.

[2Co 5:21 NKJV] 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

So not only was Jesus' soul troubled by God's divine wrath

He was also troubled because He knew that the cross meant separation from the Father.

We cannot comprehend what it is like for God (Trinity) (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) who has always existed (eternal) and always in perfect fellowship and unity with each other.

What it would be like for God, the Son, to be separated from the Father as He hung on the cross.

Why was He separated? Why was fellowship broken?

Hab 1:13 – regarding the Lord

You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.

So when Jesus was hanging on the cross and all of our sins were poured upon Him, the Father had to look away / fellowship was broken

That is why Jesus cries out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Because for the only time in eternity, the Father broke fellowship with the Son.

So we see that Jesus' soul was troubled because He understood that at the cross, God's wrath was going to be poured onto Him and He knew that He was going to be separated from the Father –

But there is another reason that He was troubled –

Turn with me to Hebrew 5

[Heb 5:7 NKJV] 7 who (Jesus), in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

Now, the author of the book of Hebrews is describing Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

However, I had you make a note where it says , **to Him who was able to save Him from death**

Because in the Greek – it is not to save Him from death (to save Him from dying on the cross and the physical suffering)

In the Greek it says, to save Him out of death

In other words—the prayer and supplications were that the Father would not leave His soul in Sheol (Hades) and His body in the grave to decay

[Psa 16:9-10 NKJV] 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

How do we know this?

Because of what comes at the end of verse 7

The writer of Hebrews states that Jesus' prayer "was heard"—indicating that Jesus' prayer was answered by the Father.

Since He did die on the cross – the next day, this could not have been what He was praying about, for if the Father had answered that prayer—the Son would not have been crucified.

But rather, this prayer was answered when God the Father raised His Son from the dead—saving Him out of death—which – by the way, is also our hope as well!

[1Co 15:20-22 NKJV] 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, [and] has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man [came] death, by Man also [came] the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Church –

Jesus is not trying to back out here.

Even though He knows what awaits Him, He would not try to get away from it – this is why He came.

28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, [saying], "I have both glorified [it] and will glorify [it] again."

The Bible says that Jesus is our example of the life that glorifies God which means that—we also must go to the cross if we're to glorify God thru our lives.

[Heb 12:2 NKJV] 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus didn't enjoy the cross, He endured it to gain the joy that would follow—to glorify the Father by gathering out of humanity a community of redeemed, true worshippers who would forever worship Him in Spirit and in truth—

No one enjoys dying, but for the Christian it's necessary if you're going to glorify God.

It is easy to glorify God when everything is going well.

When bills are paid, when we are doing well economically and physically

But do we desire to glorify God when there is a little pain involved / a little suffering?

After a loss of a loved one –

After being given an unfavorable diagnosis from the doctor –

We tend to whimper and cry and complain and ask God why He lets unpleasant things happen to us.

As believers, we should learn to say, ‘Father, through this suffering and through this pain, glorify Thyself.’”

Jesus only wanted to do one thing—glorify His Father

[1Co 10:31 NKJV] 31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

That is our supreme goal in the Christian life—because it was Jesus’ supreme goal.

Jesus didn’t say glorify My name – He said glorify Your name

When the Father spoke from heaven that Jesus had glorified Him thru the life He lived, the Father was affirming both the Man and the ministry of Jesus—that He was His Son sent from the Father to do His will upon the earth.

He was glorified thru His Son’s life and will be glorified again thru His death and resurrection

BTW – this is the third time when an audible voice was heard from heaven during His ministry –

At His baptism (Matt 3) and at the Mt of Transfiguration (Matt 17)

29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard [it] said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." 30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.

So apparently, everyone that was there in the audience heard something

However, not everyone heard the same thing.

It appears that Jesus' disciples and true followers – they heard the voice from heaven.

However, others in the crowd – they tried to put a natural explanation on a spiritual thing. No it wasn't a voice from heaven – it was just thunder.

Others knew it was not thunder, and yet they did not recognize it as the voice of God.

Realizing it must have been superhuman; they could only conclude that it was the voice of an angel.

Here is the thing church –

Faith in Christ was the filter they heard through.

Those who believed without reservation heard the words clearly.

God's voice can only be heard and understood by those who are helped by the Holy Spirit to understand.

That is why some people can listen to the gospel over and over, and it will seem meaningless to them unless the Holy Spirit speaks to them and through it.

And other individuals can listen to the gospel one time and fall on their knees immediately.

So how does that happen?

If I can only understand His word if He allows me to – what will determine if He allows me to?

And that is determined by whether or not they really want to hear the voice of God in their hearts—

The sad thing church is -

There is a lot of people that go to church who really don't want to know what God has to say –

We even see this in Jesus' own ministry

Turn to Matt 13 –

The disciples come to Jesus and ask Him – why are you speaking in parables

[Mat 13:11-13 NKJV] 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have

abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

It was only those who had an open heart to the things of God that understood the parables.

Those whose ears were dull and whose hearts were hard – they really don't want to hear what I have to say.

Just like the those in the crowd that thought it was thunder or thought it was an angel.

31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

At the cross, God not only judged sin (as our sins were placed upon Jesus, our sacrificial Lamb—Isa.53:6)—but He also judged the “world”

The verdict came at Calvary – 2000 years ago (GUILTY!)—but the sentence will be carried out in the future as recorded in the Book of Revelation.

32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all [peoples] to Myself." 33

This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

This is one of those commonly misunderstood verse.

It's often quoted as if to understand that "lifting Jesus up" means to be praising Him.

It's used in the sense of, "Let's praise Jesus, and lift Him up, and people will be drawn to Him."

That is not what Jesus is saying here.

And the sad part is that everyone who was there understood what Jesus meant -

He is talking about the cross –

Remember the conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus –

[Jhn 3:14-15 NKJV] 14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

And it is Jesus upon the cross that will draw all to Him

Not all in the sense of every individual, but all in the sense of people from all races, such as the Gentiles.

Not all in the sense of every individual, but in the sense of all that want to be saved.

[1Co 1:18 NKJV] 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

34 The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how [can] You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'?

Who is this Son of Man?"

This crowd who believed the Messiah would come as a political conqueror didn't want to consider the possibility that He was going to die—it didn't fit in with their 'theology' of who the Messiah would be

They desired a conquering hero - Not a dying Messiah

You see, the people had been taught only the passages from the Law which spoke of the triumph of the Messiah—

Dan 7:14 – His kingdom will not be destroyed

Ezekiel 37:25 - and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

Isaiah 9:7 – Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.

They selectively blocked out Psalm 22, Isaiah 52 and 53, Zechariah 12

They have already seen Jesus arrive in a donkey – which doesn't make sense.

So they are totally confused.

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

Jesus, as the Light, would only be on planet earth for a little while longer.

This is a last call, a final plea for the nation of Israel to respond to the truth of God before it was too late.

In other words, the day of God's grace toward Israel was just about over and would be followed by spiritual darkness and persecution.

Jesus is pleading with them to accept the truth of God while they still have the opportunity—to believe in the message while it's still being proclaimed.

By a simple step of faith, these people could have passed out of spiritual darkness and into the light of salvation.

This marked the end of our Lord's public ministry as far as John's record is concerned. Jesus departed and hid Himself.

It was judgment on the nation that saw His miracles, heard His messages, and scrutinized His ministry—and yet refused to believe on Him.”

They rejected His invitation and notice that Jesus left them in the darkness that they preferred.

This warning was not only directed at Israel back then—but also at people living today:

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'