

John 12

For the Joy

I. Anointing at Bethany

1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

- **Jesus came to Bethany**

1. 6 Days till Passover
2. 6 Days till the Cross

Last half [50%] of Gospel of John is last week; Mark 40%

- **Jesus visits Simon the Leper in Bethany** [Matthew 26]
- **Lazarus family is there. Good times!**

2 There they made [Jesus] a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. **3** Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair.

- Martha served...
 - Lazarus ate...
 - Mary Sat...worshiped at Jesus Feet
1. Pound of Spikenard: One years wages
 2. Anointed Jesus feet
 3. Wiped feet with hair; let down hair in public

She considered her precious ointment only good enough for His feet. "To attend to the feet was the task of the most lowly slave. Thus Mary's action denoted great humility as well as great devotion." [Morris]

3b...And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

- Filled with fragrance of Jesus: Sweet smelling aroma to be remembered
- Martha served, Lazarus Ate, and Mary worshiped with sacrifice

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, **5** "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" **6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

- **Judas Iscariot:**

1. "Why don't we sell that stuff and put the money in [my] the money box?"
2. Others joined in [Matthew 26]
3. **John narrates:** "...he used to take what was in it...because he was a thief"

4. **Take what was in it:** gr. Lit. Continually stealing from the box

Judas "Why did she waste that on Jesus?"

"When a man has gone so far in selfish greed that he has left common honesty behind him, no wonder if the sight of utterly self-surrendering love looks to him folly." [Maclaren]

7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the **day of My burial**. 8 For the poor you have with you always..."

- Judas is rebuked by Jesus in front of others

1. Public sin/public rebuking
2. **Let her alone.**
3. Day of My burial

- **Wise men at Jesus birth:**

1. **Gold:** King
2. **Frankincense:** Priest
3. **Myrrh:** Prophet prophesying his death and burial spices

If you want to help the poor [which you don't] they are always here

- **Jesus, what is the solution for the poor:**

1. There is none.
2. There will always be the poor

7b...but Me you do not have always."

Let her alone! She is doing what is right!

- **Judas is infuriated!**

1. **This dinner scene:** Catalyst to lead Judas to betray Jesus

Mark 14:8 [Mary...] has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. 9 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." 10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. 11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him. [30 Pieces]

Love of money a motivation for all kinds of evil...

1 Timothy 6:6 [Read] Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- **Love of money a motivation [root] for all kinds of evil:**

1. Stealing
2. Murder

- Godliness with contentment is "great gain"

**Me you done always have...6 more days
Judas, you have a choice, Me or your greed but not both...**

Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

- Root of Evil began to grow in Judas heart from his love of money
- His name would live in infamy for what he is about to do

SUMMARY Anointing at Bethany: Mary Blessed/Judas Cursed by his own choice

II. Plot to Kill Lazarus

9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that [Jesus] was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

- **Common Jews trek to Bethany;** those who did not see Lazarus waddle out cave

10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

- **Let's kill the guy who just rose from the dead?**
 1. Rising of Lazarus led to many getting saved
 2. Many of the Jews left ["went away"] from following Religious Leaders
- **Sin/Self/Pride: Great Motivators**
 1. Judas motivated to betrayal by love of money
 2. Religious Leaders motivated to murder by loss of power/influence...

Even if they had to kill a guy just raised from the dead

- **Chief Priests:** Mostly Sadducees
 1. Did not believe in life after
 2. Lazarus would be a problem in their theology if left alive

When men hate Christ, they also hate those whom he has blessed, and will go to any lengths in seeking to silence their testimony. [Spurgeon]

SUMMARY Plot to Kill Lazarus

III. The King Arrives

12 The next day a **great multitude** that had come to the feast, when they

heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him and cried out "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"

When Jesus entered the Jerusalem, He was surrounded by thousands of Lambs

- **Every Passover:** Lamb's sacrificed to symbolically cover sin of people [250,000]
- **This Passover:** Lamb sacrificed to actually take away sins of the people [Just 1]

Great Multitude pouring into Jerusalem

- Hear Jesus coming to Jerusalem
- Grab Palm Branches
- **Cry out:** Messianic Psalm 118

"Hosanna!"

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

The King of Israel!"

- **Blessed:** To be celebrated with praise
- **Hosanna:** Savior, Save now, Salvation, Deliverer, Avenging one, Defender, Rescuers

Red [Green] Carpet for the King of Israel

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: 15 **"Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."**

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

- **Donkey's colt:** Symbol of a King coming in Peace; Prince of Peace

Oh, that all his people would always be of such a lowly spirit, not seeking great things for themselves, but condescending to men of low estate, remembering that it was their Master who said to his disciples, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." [Spurgeon]

- **Daughter of Zion:** Jerusalem

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

- **Written about Him:** His-story

Hebrews 10:7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'

- It all about Jesus

17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of

his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. 18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

- **Lazarus incident very important:** Critical to moving to the cross
- Lazarus and Jesus walking together?

Everyone's talking about Jesus...Multitudes gathering around Jesus

19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. **Look, the world has gone after Him!**"

Multitudes gather around Jesus with Palm Branches

- 1st Coming really a Triumphal Entry? The King Arrives/accepted/later rejected
- 2nd Coming the actual Triumphal Entry: King Jesus reigns in Glory forever

1st and 2nd Coming multitudes gather around Jesus with Palm Branches

Revelation 7:9 [Read] [Apostle John...] looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, **with palm branches in their hands**, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**"

Hosanna: Savior, Salvation, Deliverer, Avenging one, Defender, Rescuers

- 1st Coming: The King will be accepted/rejected/ultimately crucified
- 2nd Coming:

Risen Lord Jesus Christ will reign in power and glory forever and ever!

IV. Final Instructions Begin: Dying with Jesus

- Jesus said if we want to truly live we must die to self: Going after ourselves today

20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. 21 Then they came to **Philip**, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "**Sir, we wish to see Jesus.**"

- **Greeks:** God-seekers; like Cornelius
 1. Came to worship during Passover
 2. Approach Philip [Greek name] Lit. *Lover of horses*

Sir, we wish to see Jesus

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

- Great when we are asked... **Sir, we wish to see Jesus**

Application: We have the privilege of allowing people to see Jesus

- **How do we show people Jesus...represent who Jesus truly is?**

- **NOTE:** They wanted to see **Jesus**...not Philip

Get out of the way

John 3:30 [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease.

Romans 7:18 In me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells.

Psalm 16:1 [David] Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. 2 O my soul, you have said to the Lord, "**You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You.**"

NOTE: Showing off is not showing Jesus off. Sir, we want to see Jesus

- Showing off Jesus means we must get out of the way
 1. Dying to self
 2. Dying to need for acceptance
 3. Dying to feasting/fishing for compliments
 4. Dying to stealing the glory from God for...
 - Perfect family we made happen
 - All that money we made
 - Flawless wardrobe in closet...

All the while thinking that somehow showing this off brings glory to the Lord

- Showing off is not showing Jesus off, Sir **we want to see Jesus**
- Instead walk in Spirit and **die to self**... [Great counseling in any/every situation]

Dying to self is where real abundant vital life begins...

Emptied of self and filled with God's Spirit

1. Not emptied of personality; unique was God created each of us
2. Emptied of old sin nature that was destroying us

Romans 6:21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, **everlasting life.**

- **Once slaves of sin, works of flesh:** Mastered us demanded obedience

First Adam failed: Came into the world with first package; sin and death

Galatians 5:19 ...the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like

Second Adam was victorious and offered second package; New Life!

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit.**

- Jesus set us free from *having to be* controlled by sin

Romans 6:18 ...having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

- Obedient to what is Light, Love, Life...

Galatians 5:22 [Read] ...the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control**. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have *crucified the flesh* with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

- **Those who are Christs have...**

1. Crucified the flesh/passions/desires: Crucified the need to be recognized
2. Live in the Spirit/Walk in the Spirit that Jesus would be recognized in us

We still have what Adam allowed into human race; i.e. sinful nature
We must willingly choose each day to live in Spirit; be who we now truly are

Make Jesus more visible by becoming less visible to those seeking God

- **Sir, we want to see Jesus: What should they see?**
- **Spirit of Jesus displayed in real life**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Love of Jesus | Selfless and expecting nothing in return Agape |
| 2. Joy of Jesus | Not complaining, woe is me |
| 3. Peace of Jesus | Not exasperated because things aren't going way |
| 4. Patience of Jesus | Patient when things aren't happening in your time |
| 5. Kindness of Jesus | Putting other above yourself |
| 6. Goodness of Jesus | Wanting best for others |
| 7. Faithfulness of Jesus | Telling the truth even when it hurts |
| 8. Gentleness of Jesus | Forgetting about self and stooping down for others |
| 9. Self-Control of Jesus | No anger issues, under control to represent God |

How are we doing?
Sir we want to see Jesus...

22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

- Philip tells Peter's brother Andrew: "These guys want to see Jesus"

23 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

- Boys expected Jesus to be excited; instead...

Guys...remember how many times I said it is not yet time? Well...its time
My hour to be glorified is now hear

- **Glorified;** i.e. honored, magnified **and this is how I will be glorified...**

24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

- I will be glorified in My death...
 1. Seed falls on ground it produces nothing
 2. Seed buried into the ground it produces much

1 Corinthians 20:20 [Post-resurrection] ... 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.**

- **Jesus:** I will be buried and raised as the first fruit of many...

25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

- **Context:** I am going to die and bear much fruit
- Exhortation/Application for us...

**We must die with Jesus in order to have Eternal Life
Salvation is nothing less than giving our entire being to God**

- **Love your life in this world and lose your soul:**

1. Worldly comforts
2. Praises of men
3. Selfish desires...take care of #1

- **Hate your life in this world and keep your soul:**

1. Put God's will above your own
2. Deny self to glorify God
3. Count others as better than self?

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- **Hate this life;** i.e. what the world calls life

Surrender yourself; be willing to be nothing; be willing to die if only the truth may live. Care nothing about honor and glory for yourself; care only about the honor and glory of your Master. Learn the meaning of the Master's paradox. As you bury yourself, you will multiply yourself. As you are put out of sight, like a grain of wheat that is sown in the ground, you have your only opportunity of growth and increase; heavily-laden ears of corn shall spring up from the grain which has been buried in the earth. [Spurgeon]

Psalms 17:2 Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright.

- **Serve God not self-interests...**

26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also.

- **To serve we must first follow**

Serving Jesus without following Jesus is not serving Jesus at all.
Are we listening to His instructions?

1. Created for good works to walk in following Jesus footsteps
2. My sheep hear My voice/Listen to instruction/ Follow My leading

In the Word every day without fail

If you are not in the Word everyday do not expect victory over trial in your life

- In order to serve we must first follow
- In order to follow we must first listen
- In order to listen we must first be in the Word

26b...If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

Q. How do we receive honor from the Creator of the Universe?

A. When we listen and do what Jesus says we will receive honor from by God

- Interesting Teaching with days to live...
 1. On one hand: If anyone serves Me...
 2. On other hand: I am going to the cross...anticipating resurrection

SUMMARY Final Instructions Begin

V. Jesus Predicts His Death on the Cross

27 "Now My soul is troubled..."

- Jesus still speaking to Disciples/friends
- **Now My soul is troubled:** Distress from inward commotion; to be stirred up

**Jesus all His earthly life would have seen men hanging on crosses lining streets
Tells His friends He is troubled**

27b... and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

- **Jesus soul troubled:**

1. Inward stirring thinking about what is coming
2. Jesus the man wrestles within with the prospect of torture/death/loneliness...

We must never forget that He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." If it had been no pain to him to die as the Substitute for sinners, there would have been no atoning sacrifice in his death; and if no dread had overtaken him at the thought of death, it would have proved that he did not die as we do; and, therefore, he would not have been able to take our place as he did. [Spurgeon]

Conflict: How can I say "Save Me from this trial when this is what I came to earth for"?

Isaiah 50:7 "For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. 8 He is near who

justifies Me; Who will contend with Me?

- Resolves/settles the issue...for the moment:

Jesus resolve the issue with remembering His purpose: Glorify Name of God

28 Father, **glorify Your name.**” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”

- God Father speaks from Heaven...

You have glorified Me by Your life and You will glorify Me in Your death

- **One of 3x:** People heard God the Father speak to God the Son
 1. **Baptism** Son in whom I am well pleased
 2. **Transfiguration** Listen to Him
 3. **Final Week** Jesus rehearses His time in Garden. Your will not Mine

- **Conflict Within Resolved:** Father Glorify Your Name

Application: In a trial? Don't know what to do? Don't try to escape or fix...

Ask to Glorify God in the Trial

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.

- **People heard something?**

1. Thunder/Angel?
2. Should have listened closer: A sign pointing to who I AM
3. My Father was speaking to Me as His Son!

**This wasn't for Me but you to help you make the
Most important decision of your life? Who do you say that I AM**

- Will you be one who follows Me to the cross?
- Will you be one who hurl insults at me on the cross?

31 Now is the **judgment of this world...**

**What is about to occur is the judgment of this world
Man's sin will be on full display Son of God is nailed to cross**

- Cross leaves no doubt/wiggle room that man is born inherently evil
- Cross leaves no doubt/wiggle room man deserves God's judgment
- Cross leaves no doubt that man desperately in need of a Savior

Good News?

- Resurrection leaves no doubt that **God is inherently Good**
- Resurrection leaves no doubt God **accepted Jesus** sacrifice in place of our Judgment

- Resurrection leaves no doubt we have a Savior and He is alive and His name is Jesus

Resurrection will leave no doubt that Satan has lost...and that his loss is eternal

31b...now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

- **2 Corinthians 4:4:** Satan called the “*god of this age*”

Ruler of the world will be cast out...out of the ring and into hell

- Third resident of hell...

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who deceived [the nations], was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It was only by Christ being apparently conquered that Satan could be really vanquished, and there is often no way of victory for a saint except through defeat. *When self is slain, then do we truly live.* [Spurgeon]

- Jesus will conquer sin, death and the devil on cross...

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.

- **I will be lifted off the earth on a cross:** Full display for all the world

All peoples/all nations will be drawn to the Cross
Slit Time from BC to AD

How we perceive the Cross of Christ will determine our Eternal Destiny

- Do we see Jesus taken and dying for Himself?
- Do you see Jesus willingly dying for our sin?

How we perceive the Cross of Christ will determine our Eternal Destiny

- **Saved by grace through faith;** i.e. faith in Jesus ability to pay for our sins in full...

[Simple man...] would conclude that faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God. [Tozer]

When we gaze at the cross do we apply what we see to our own life?

When we look at cross do we see defeated dying man or victorious saving God?

- **Lifted up:** Draws all men near

No matter who you are, where you are, when you are, how rich you are we all must look

The crucified Christ of Calvary is the mighty magnet that is to attract multitudes of trembling, doubting, ruined sinners, who by grace shall be drawn unto him, and find eternal life in him. [Spurgeon]

- **Lifted Up:** He told them how He would die...

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?"

- When we don't want to deal with our sin we have a theological debate
 1. I thought the Messiah was eternal? He is.
 2. Who is this "Son of Man" [v23]

Been listening since v 23. Have not heard anything

- **Ignores their theological questions with a warning...**

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."

- **No time to debate**

1. I'm with you for just a few more days
2. Walk; i.e. agree with Me while I am here
3. Draw near to My light now or darkness will overtake you/consume you

Believe in the Light I am offering you

I AM the Light of the World: Believe in Me and become children of God

- We all began as darkness...We must all "become children of Light"

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

- Once loved darkness
- We have now come to love the Light/Children of Light w/ nothing to hide
- **To walk in the Light means:**
 1. To believe what Jesus says without question
 2. Do what Jesus asks without question

They would rather debate than believe the Word of the Lord. Dangerous place

36b...These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

Jesus is teaching us that dying to self and living for God
...is where real life begins

- Jesus warned them
- Jesus left them
- Jesus was unable to be found by them

Can we come to a point of unbelief that Jesus is no longer able to be found by us?

VI. The Greatest Sin: Crossing the Line in Unbelief

37 But although [Jesus] had done **so many signs** before them, they **did not believe in Him**

How much must God reveal Himself before people will believe?

- **John narrates: SO MANY Signs** [pointing Jesus as Messiah] still did not believe

1. Blind men see, deaf hear, lame walk, Lepers healed
2. Lazarus and others raised from dead
3. Father speaking from Heaven validating His Son
4. So many lives changed

- **After SO MANY SIGNS: So many lives changed...**

1. Continued to deny what they saw
2. Continued to reject what they heard
3. **Continue in too much pride for way too long...**

Made a relationship impossible...just as in personal relationships

- Keep gossiping, talking smack about someone... how can you ever reconcile?
- Continued to deny Jesus Works, to reject His Words, grow callous...how could they humble themselves to bow to Him?

Built unscalable wall of Separation between themselves and God

Is there a line a person can cross that they are no longer able to believe?

- They still did not believe in Him...

38... that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

- **Arm of the Lord revealed:**

1. Jesus the arm of the Lord revealed by irrefutable signs
2. Jesus the arm of the Living God revealed and denied...

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

- **Therefore, they could not believe?** Because Jesus was revealed and denied

God blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts

- God's heart was to heal and save the Jews but they would not have it...

Luke 19:41 [Read] [Jesus entry into Jerusalem] 41 Now as [Jesus] drew near, He saw the

city and **wept over it**, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But **now they are hidden from your eyes**. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you **did not know the time of your visitation**."

Those who did not listen to Jesus Words were destroyed

- Those who listened left Jerusalem. Jews stayed/destroyed by Titus 38 years later
- **By the time Jesus entered Jerusalem many decisions had been made**
 1. Some *believed*
 2. Some *would believe after resurrection*
 3. Some *could believe no longer*. They had seen/denied too much. Hearts seared
 - **Parents relatives:** See the work the Lord had done /Hear the Word
 - **2nd Generation:** Going through motions with no buy in to Gospel
 - **Shelters/Streets:** John 3:16 repeated verbatim but not applied
 - **Funerals:** Memorize Psalm 23
 - **Church members:** Denied message so long listen with no guilt

Willfully Blinded: Eyes Blinded/Hearts Hardened by God God Blinded their eyes because they rejected revelation given [signs]

- Isaiah prophesied 700 year earlier: God would allow them to go their own way

Gave them over to what they willfully chose ... to reject the revelation; God's loving call on their lives

Oh, that none of us may imitate their evil example by negligence and contempt of the revelation of God, lest after playing with Scripture, and trifling with the Christ of God, the Lord should at last in anger declare that we should see, but should not perceive, that we should hear, but should not understand. [Spurgeon]

Gave them over to what they themselves chose... ... to not believe the revelation given

41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus! When?

Isaiah 6:1 [Read] In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; **The whole earth is full of His glory!**"

- **Isaiah saw Jesus on the Throne**
 1. **Isaiah saw Jesus of the Throne:** High and lifted up
 2. **Isaiah prophesied:**

- Jesus would be rejected at 1st Coming
- Those who rejected Him would be given over to unbelief

Angels declared: The whole earth is filled with the glory of Jesus!

- Glory of Jesus fills all Creation...**because Jesus is the Creator**
- When we the Revelation found in Creation...we are rejecting the Creator

Psalm 19 [David] 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is **no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard**. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.

... Creation demands a decision to accept/reject the fact of a Creator

- As the Cross demands all men to make a decision so to Creation

Man must suppress the truth found in Creation in order to reject the Creator

Romans 1:18 [Read] For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

- Wrath of God revealed from Heaven against man's...
- **Wrath:** gr. *or-gā'* Lit anger. Root meaning *To stretch out in order to touch*

**God's Wrath is Coming to Mankind because of man's
...willful rejection of God as revealed in Creation**

- **Ungodliness:** gr. *ä-se'-bā-ä* Lit. Devoid of reverence toward God. Root meaning *destitute of reverential awe towards God, condemning God*
- **Unrighteousness:** gr. *ä-dē-kē'-ä* Lit. Injustice toward God. Root meaning *one who deals fraudulently*

You know the truth of God but you willingly reject it...

19 ...because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

- What we can know about God has been manifest [revealed] in Creation

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...

- God's unseen attributes/qualities are clearly seen/understood in observing Creation
 1. Beauty
 2. Glory
 3. Love
 4. Eternal Power
 5. Godhead

His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made...

20b...so that they are without excuse...

- Who? Un-godly/Unrighteous unbelievers are *without excuse*. **Why?**

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- Because they knew God but did not glorify Him as God

**In order to not believe you must first believe
Dangerous to continue to deny what you know to be true**

- Digression begins with knowing God
 1. Knew God
 2. Chose not to glorify Him as God
 3. Chose not to be thankful
 4. Chose to become empty of reason
 5. Allowed their hearts to grow dark as moved into unbelief
 6. Next...pride creeps in; i.e. finds a home in the unbelieving heart...

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools...

- More they denied truth/professed what they knew was false/more foolish they became
- Began to believe own lies

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- Professing to have all the answers they became ludicrous/absurd/ridiculous

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

- **Focused on Creation not Creator**

1. **Evolution:** Giraffe necks grew as leaves were harder to find/Egyptian gods?
2. **Save the Earth:** Leaving pile of garbage at every event
3. **Save the Whales:** More valuable than humans

Professing to have all the answers they become ludicrous/absurd/ridiculous
In the last days "the lie" will consume mankind; Evolution/one world religion? [2 Thes. 2]

- **Digression began with knowing God:** Important to "love the truth"

1. Knew God
2. Chose not to glorify Him as God
3. Chose not to be thankful
4. Chose to become empty of reason
5. Allowed their hearts to grow dark as moved into unbelief
6. Next...pride creeps in; i.e. finds a home in the unbelieving heart...
7. **Finally:** Idolatry; i.e. worshiping creation rather than the Creator

Result? One of the most chilling "**Therefore's**" in all of Scripture

24 Therefore God also **gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- **Therefore...God gave them up**

1. Here Creation is the sigh spoken against
2. Text in John 12 Jesus was the sign spoken against [Luke 2:34]

John 12:39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

- **Therefore...God gave them up** [Romans 1]

1. To uncleanness was birthed from...
2. The lust in their hearts and manifested...
3. In dishonor of their physical bodies

- **These were the ones who...**

1. Knew the truth of God
2. Exchanged it for a lie: No thank you
3. Proves it by worshiping/serving the creature; i.e. themselves

- **In spite of this filth...**

God is the Creator who is and will be forever blessed by those who believe

- God gave them up to idolatry: Worship of self
- God gave them up to uncleanness manifested in dishonoring their physical bodies

Chose to deny the revelation of Creation's Creator God continues to let go...

26 For this reason God gave them up to **vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

- **Homosexuality:**

1. God did not give them up as a consequence of homosexuality
2. Homosexuality was consequence of God giving them up... to their own lust
v24

Homosexuality is the end result of denying God and God letting you have your way

- **Genesis 6** Before the Flood: Last day will be as the days of Noah

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

- The more they pushed God out of mind the more given over

1. Entertainment
2. Mind altering drugs
3. Pleasures and Lusts

- As they emptied themselves of the knowledge God...

29 [They became] filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

- Last digression is to approve of those things we know are killing people...

**Is there a line a person can cross that they are no longer able to believe?
Chilling: Given over to their own lusts and never know it till judgment**

"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

We must remember that it was God's heart was to heal them...they chose otherwise

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore turn and live!"

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

- God desires to be with you forever
- Don't let unbelief/scoffing/mockng go too far...

42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him...

**Even though many hardened their hearts in unbelief...
Many rulers of the Jews secretly believed**

- Pharisee Nicodemus believed in John 3

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, **coming and taking courage**, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

- **Many** Jewish Rulers believed...

42b...but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue

John 9:22 ...the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

- Jewish leaders did not tell others they believed in Jesus...

43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God

- Loved the praise of men MORE than the praise of God
- Walked in the fear of man rather than fear of God

How do I overcome the desire for man's praise?

When I know I should bring up Jesus but I'm overcome by fear and desire man's approval?

- **Simple:** Just do it and watch God do the rest!

It is dangerous to fear man. It is safe to trust the Lord

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

- Fear man and be shut up/ tripped up
- **Speak His Name and you will be safe...** Just do it!

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

Bible tells us to confess; i.e. declare Jesus is Lord

Romans 10:9 ... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Bible tells us we are not to fear man...at all.

Luke 12:4 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

- **Yet, God reveals His heart to us...**

[cont.] 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- Fear/Respect God more than man...makes sense?

Confess the Name of Jesus. How?

- **Baptism:**

1. Command of the Lord

Matthew 28:19 Go...make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38 [Peter] "Repent, and **let every one of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ...

1. **Command of Lord**
 2. A great way to tell the world what Jesus has done [outward sign/inward change]
- **Cowardly Rulers:** Believed but did not tell others...

44 Then **Jesus cried out** and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

Jesus Cried Out

- **NOTE:** "Do you think Jesus will show up to Passover?"

When you believe in Me ...you are believing in God
When you see Me...you are seeing God; the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

John 14:9 [Later in John] He who has seen Me has seen the Father

- Jesus is not the Father but does the work of Father/speaks Words of Father

Clear Teaching of Bible reveals a Triune God

One God revealed in three separate/distinct persons; i.e. Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- Believing in Me is believing in God
- Seeing Me you see the Works of God
- Hearing Me you hear the Words of God

Hebrews 1:3 [Jesus is...] the brightness of [God's] glory and the express image of His person...

The Eternal God broke into the dimension of time and came to dwell among us in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ; God in the Flesh

- In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God
 - The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
1. **Believing in Me** is believing in God
 2. **Seeing Me** is observing the Works of God
 3. **Hearing Me** is listening the very Words of God...**don't be afraid to believe**

46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

Come as a Light into world

- **Obvious Implication:** This is a dark world [What a wonderful world?]

Clear Call? Come out from the Dungeon of Darkness

- Out from hiding
- Out from running
- Out from fear

Out from under bondage of sin and shame into the light of freedom/forgiveness

2 Corinthians 3:17 where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is [freedom].

John 8:36 ...if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Galatians 5:13 ...you, brethren, have been called to [freedom]

Psalms 119:45 ...I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.

Isaiah 61:1 [Jesus was sent...] to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim [freedom] to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound

Great Offer: Confess Me and be Safe...believe in Me and be Free

47 And if anyone hears My words and **does not believe**, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world **but to save the world.**

- **2x in John:** Wants to make it clear Jesus came to save not condemn...

John 3:17 ...God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world **through Him might be saved.**

- **But...**

48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has **that which judges** him...

Those who Reject Jesus/His Words have "that which judges"

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| ▪ Jesus Word received as Word of God/Truth? | Salvation |
| ▪ Jesus Word received as a thing to be tampered with? | Judgment |

That which judges? Denying the Word of Jesus

48b...—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. **49** For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

Judgement Question: What did Jesus say? And, what did you do about it?

50 And I know that **His command is everlasting life.** Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, **so I speak."**

The command the Father gave Jesus was to speak Everlasting Life

Thus, Everlasting Life is found in believing Jesus Words

John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.