

Life and Death for God's Glory (John 12:27-50)

I. Dying For the Glory of God (27-33)

A. The Goal of God's Glory (27-28)

1. Jesus Purposes All For Father's Glory (27-28a)

- a. Jesus is troubled in his soul (27a)
 - i. He was all man and all God
 - ii. He could feel the fear and tension of what was about to happen
 - iii. He was troubled about taking the Father's wrath upon himself
- b. Jesus will not choose deliverance (27b)
 - i. What shall I say? Save me?
 - ii. Meaning – Jesus asks a rhetorical question – the point is that he will not seek to get around the Father's will even though He anticipates the agony and torment.
- c. Jesus came to glorify the Father (27c-28a)
 - i. To die on the cross was the purpose for which Jesus came to earth
 - ii. He determines to glorify the Father even though it means his death
 - iii. He says, "Father glorify thy name!" – He means let your will be done in my torture and death.
- d. Like Jesus we are called to die for His glory

2. The Father Purposes to Glorify His Name (28b)

- a. The Father answers the Son's Prayer
 - i. A voice thunders from heaven – I have glorified it and I will again
 - ii. In all things the Father glorifies Himself and he will do so again in Jesus' death and resurrection

B. The Explanation of How God is Glorified (29-33)

1. The Goal of God's Glory isn't Understood by Man (29-30)

- a. Some in the crowd heard what sounded like thunder
- b. Others heard a voice they thought was an angel
- c. None understood that it was the Father Himself acknowledging and giving approval to the Son
- d. Jesus Says the Voice came for the people's sake (30)
 - i. Jesus already knew the Father's will
 - ii. The Father's voice was to give testimony to Jesus' mission and standing. It was so the people would know.
 - iii. The People did not hear or understand

2. The Goal of God's Glory is Explained by Jesus (31-33)

- a. God will glorify his name in judgment of the world (31)
 - i. The cross is a judgment upon the world

- ii. The cross is where the world's sin is judged and condemned under God's wrath
- b. God will glorify his name by defeating Satan
 - i. The ruler of this world is cast out by the cross
 - ii. Jesus defeated the only power the devil has over man – Sin
 - iii. The devil can't send anyone to hell – Sin does
 - iv. The devil can only use man's sin against him
 - v. If Jesus does away with sin, Satan has no accusation against him
- c. God will glorify his name by Jesus' saving death
 - i. Jesus will be lifted up from the earth (i.e. He will die on the cross)
 - ii. By his death he will draw all men to himself
 - This means both Jews and Gentiles
 - Jesus is explaining that he will save the greeks as well
 - Remember the Greeks have just come to him seeking an audience
 - God will glorify himself by saving men from every tribe, tongue, and nation

II. Faith For the Glory of God (34-36)

A. The Crowd is Confused about Christ's Purpose (34)

- 1. The crowd was looking for a conquering Christ (34a)
 - a. They had just been told that Jesus intended to die
 - b. They said, we have heard the Christ would remain forever
 - i. They wanted Jesus to establish his everlasting kingdom
 - ii. They wanted him to take the throne and remain forever
- 2. The crowd did not comprehend the actual Christ (34b)
 - a. They asked – how can you say the son of man will be lifted up (i.e. die)
 - b. They want to know what kind of a son of man is this which you are describing?
 - c. They don't want a dying messiah – they want a conquering one.
 - d. How will Jesus answer this question?

B. The Crowd is Commanded to Trust in the True Christ (35-36a)

- 1. NOTICE: Jesus doesn't answer their question or try to convince them of his claim. He simply tells them they must believe
- 2. Walk in the Light While there is Time (35)
 - a. Jesus warns them that the light (himself) will only be with them a little while longer
 - i. They thought he would remain forever

- ii. They thought he would conquer
- b. Jesus tells them to walk in the light while they can
 - i. If they don't trust in the messiah they have, darkness will overtake them
 - ii. They will be left without any direction when Jesus has gone – "the one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going"
- c. Jesus tells them to walk in the light to become sons of light (36a)
 - i. They desire to be subjects of God and rule in His kingdom
 - ii. Jesus tells them the only way to be sons of light is to walk in the light
 - iii. They must trust in Christ to come into God's kingdom
 - iv. The same goes for us – Jesus didn't come to give us what we want – he came to offer the salvation of God

C. Jesus Completes His Public Ministry (36b)

- 1. Jesus tells them this final warning and command
- 2. Jesus departs from them and hides himself from them

III. Unbelief and Judgment for the Glory of God (37-43)

A. The Demonstration of Unbelief Foretold (37-41)

- 1. Many Did not Believe Despite His Miracles (37)
- 2. Their Unbelief Fulfilled Isaiah's Prophecy (38)
- 3. Many Did not Believe Because they were Judicially Hardened (39-40)
 - a. They could not believe because their eyes were blind and their hearts were hardened
 - b. This was God's judgment on them
 - i. They were hardened so they would not see and understand and they would not turn and be healed
 - ii. Just like Romans 1 – God turned them over to what they desired.
 - iii. They were now under the judgment of God
 - iv. This is a scary thought – They would no longer be drawn by the Spirit of God
- 4. Isaiah foretold this hardening when He saw Christ's glory
 - a. This is very important – In Isaiah 6, when Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up and his train filled the temple – He saw Christ sitting on the throne
 - b. The only antecedent for "him" in this verse is Christ himself which means Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus on the throne of God

B. The Demonstration of the Love of the World (42-43)

1. Some did Believe in Him (43)
 - a. They believed but they were afraid of the Pharisees
 - b. They believed but they would not confess it
 - c. They believed but did not want to be thrown out of the synagogue
 - d. Was their belief genuine?
2. They Loved the glory of man more than God's glory (44)
 - a. The Father and Son have been purposing God's glory
 - b. These men did not want to die for God's glory
 - c. These men did not want to suffer for God's glory
 - d. These men loved the glory of men

NOTE: The next section should be another outline and another lesson but because of time, I am including it in this outline. The final verses of John 12 seem to be a summary statement of Jesus' teaching and ministry. Jesus is the final revelation from the Father. He comes in the authority of the Father and bearing the Father's message. Failing to trust him is to reject the last offer God makes to man.

IV. Jesus – The Final Revelation of God (44-50)

- A. Jesus Claims to Speak for the Father (44-46)
 1. Jesus Claims to Represent the Father (44-45)
 - a. The one who believes in Jesus believe in the one who sent him
 - b. The one who sees (in faith) Jesus sees the one who sent him
 - c. Man cannot trust the Father without trusting Christ
 2. Jesus Claims to be the Revelation of the Father (46)
 - a. Jesus is the light of the world – the light is the revelation of hope in the darkness
 - b. The one who believes in Jesus will not remain in the Darkness
- B. Jesus Claims to Be the Final Judgment of the Father (47-48)
 1. Jesus did not come to judge those who reject him (47)
 - a. He doesn't judge because he didn't come to judge
 - b. He came to save from men from judgment
 - c. Judgment is already upon them
 2. Jesus' Words will judge men at the last day (48)
 - a. There is a judge for those who reject Jesus
 - b. Jesus' own words will judge him
 - c. Jesus' words will decide the eternal destiny of all men
- C. Jesus Claims to Speak on the Authority of the Father (49-50)
 1. Jesus has not spoken on his own authority as the Son
 2. Jesus has spoken what the Father commanded him to speak
 3. Jesus has spoken everything the Father told him to speak
 4. Man cannot believe the Father unless He believes Him through the words of the Son – The Father only speaks through the son