

“The Gospel of John: The Father’s Judgment”

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Scripture

John 12:44-50

“And Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but **in Him who sent Me**. “**He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.**”

“**I have come as Light into the world**, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

“If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for **I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.**”

“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; **the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.**”

“For **I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak**. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore, the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

Last Week

We spoke of blindness -> spiritual blindness

Many of our friends and family are blind -> and they do not know it -> they may think they see

Sad thing to be blind and unaware of your blindness

This Week

Jesus’s last public words -> a summarization of prior statements to the Jews -> the term paper

From this point forward, He will be exclusively focusing on His disciples

If you were given one last chance to say anything in public, what would you say?

Jesus has a few last words for the Jews as He departs the public scene

First, He is God

I Am God

John 12:44-45

“And Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but **in Him who sent Me**. “**He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.**”

Jesus has said this many times:

John 5:17-18 (after healing a man on the Sabbath)

“My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.” For this reason, therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was **calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.**”

John 10:24-30

“The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, **“How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.”** Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me.” But **you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.””

“He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but **in Him who sent Me**” -> belief in Jesus comes from above

John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Jesus is God – There is no question about that, according to the words of Jesus

Second, Jesus is the Light of the World

I Am the Light

John 12:46

“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

As the Light of the World, He is the only hope IN the world and FOR the world

The Light is spiritual illumination -> understanding of the supernatural world and spiritual concepts

John 5:12

“Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world; **he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**’”

Following Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Spirit gives you spiritual wisdom

John 1:4-5

“In Him was life, and **the life was the Light of men.** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

Having the Light means you no longer walk in darkness

There's a **two-fold effect** here:

1) You understand the world much better

You see the evil in the world; **You see the sin in the world**

You grasp the dire situation the unbelievers are in

2) You do not willingly live like the world does

1 John 2:15-17

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

So, if your life looks like the world's life -> if you live as the world, John questions whether you're saved

But if you have given your life to Jesus, you should understand the world and not be drawn into it

Third, Jesus came to save

I Came to Save

John 12:47

“If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for **I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.**”

John commented on this fact before:

John 3:17

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, **but that the world might be saved through Him.**”

If anyone hears Jesus's message and ignores it, in His incarnation, He was not the Judge

Jesus was the offer of salvation

Isaiah 55:1-3

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, **according to the faithful mercies shown to David.**”

Jesus was the Son of David -> the promised deliverer for the people

Paul, instructing a young Timothy in his first pastorate writes:

1 Timothy 1:15-16

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.** Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.”

Fourth, Judgment is Coming

My Word Will Judge

John 12:48

“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; **the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.**”

Everyone is judged by the words of Jesus

God's word will not return void -> it will accomplish its purpose, to the good of some, but not others

Isaiah 55:11

“So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; **It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire,** and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

→ Unbelievers

2 Peter 3:3-7

“Know this first of all, **that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."** For when they maintain this, **it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.** But by His word **the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.**”

Matthew 25:31-34; 41; 46

“But **when the Son of Man comes in His glory,** and all the angels with Him, then **He will sit on His glorious throne.** **"All the nations will be gathered before Him;** and **He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;** and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. **"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...then He will also say to those on His left, Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels...These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."**

There is no escaping Christ's judgment

Hebrews 9:27-28

"It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."

He'll come again to collect those that are His -> the eagerly await His coming -> **Marana-Tha!**

→ Believers

What about believers? We will be judged, too:

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences."

We all will be judged

1 Corinthians 1:4-5

"For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. Therefore, do not go on passing judgment before the time, but **wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."**

Matthew 25:14-15 (Parable of the Talents)

"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. "To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey."

What we do with what we are given is important

Luke 12:40; 48

"You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be required"

Romans 14:10-12

"But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." So, then **each one of us will give an account of himself to God."**

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.** If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Pastoral motives -> What is my motive for Christian service?

Do I serve others because I love Jesus?

Or am I seeking the approval of men?

Lastly, Jesus reminds that His words come from the Father

The Father's Judgment

John 12:49-50

“For **I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.** I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore, the things I speak, **I speak just as the Father has told Me.**”

Why is that important? -> Because the Jews were claiming to follow God the Father!

In His first coming, Jesus came to save

In His second coming, Jesus comes with a powerful, judgment authority

Matthew 28:18

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

Revelation 1:12-17

“I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands, **I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.** His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

17When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man.”

We will all face the Judge -> His flaming eyes will see everything -> “nowhere to run to, nowhere to hide”

He is God, He is the Light, He came to save, but judgment is coming to all of us -> this is the Father's plan

Prayer - Benediction