

## Glory and Judgment

John 12:27-36

Jesus is about to die. He has entered Jerusalem for the last time, one week before his resurrection. That triumphal entry is described for us at the beginning of John 12, and these last 10 chapters of John are all devoted to this last week of his life on earth, after just 11 chapters covering the whole of his life up to this point. That emphasis in John certainly teaches you just how important the events of this last week were.

And he begins with a declaration of anguish.

v.27 “My soul is troubled.”

He knows what lies ahead, what he would later call “the cup,” referring to the suffering of his death. He will later pray, specifically,

Mat. 26:39 “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

And, v.42 “Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

We’re told... Luke 22:44 “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

As we begin this morning, I want you to focus upon that agony.

### I. THE ANGUISH OF JESUS.

Because in it, we see clearly his humanity. This was human suffering, a human death. Human anguish. And if you are going

to rightly understand what Jesus has done to earn and accomplish your salvation, you have to understand that human anguish.

You all know some measure of human anguish. You have known loved ones who have died in recent weeks. You have known loved ones who have been brought close to death. You have known loved ones injured or harmed, who have undergone surgery or perhaps lessor medical treatment.

Perhaps your anguish is in the conflicts of human relationships, perhaps family members or friends estranged from you. Marital conflicts, or arguments in your home. Perhaps your anguish is in your job, in the unpleasant duties and obligations of your employment. Or in your schoolwork, for you students. The unending studying and tests that you must take.

Your anguish might be internal, in the form of depression, exasperation, or more broadly, stress.

You all know anguish. It is an inescapable part of life. And it was inescapable for Jesus as well, in his humanity, as he came to Jerusalem to lay down his life for the sins of his people. That’s the starting point this morning.

#### A. Real, human grief.

We read of that grief in more detail in,

Ps. 22:1 “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? 2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.”

David continues, in a description that fully fits the experience of Jesus upon the cross,

Ps. 22:12 “Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. 13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”

That’s grief, as deeply and as fully as anyone has ever experience it. Real, human grief. “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?”

More simply, in our text this morning,  
v.27

Of course, though he might ask for an escape from his grief, but its a rhetorical question. “What shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’”? Of course not. He knew what lay ahead, and it grieved him deeply. But he knew what is purpose was all about.  
v.27

Simply put, submission to that purpose defined his obedience. And his commitment to obedience, perfect obedience, is expressed by his words recorded in,  
v.28a

That’s

### **B. Real human purpose.**

The desire, the intention, the goal, that the Father would

glorify his name. Even if that means my grief. My suffering.  
“Father, glorify your name.”

And this is what pleased and glorified the father the most. His willing and obedient submission.

John 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

This is what made Jesus’ obedience a sweet smelling sacrifice, to use the words of,

Eph. 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

You see, we are called to gaze upon Jesus, to fix our eyes upon Jesus, that we might purpose the same purpose for our lives.

Eph. 5:1 “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

And in that chapter, Paul makes everything so abundantly practical with direct and immediate application to our own lives,

Eph. 5:3 “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 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.”

So in the grief of his anguish, Jesus never lost his purpose. And all of that is presented to us for our sake, for our encouragement. For our application. Jesus makes that pretty obvious.

v.28-30

People of God, all of this is for your sake! Jesus' anguish, the expression of his grief that provides the context for the determination of his commitment of obedience, is for your benefit. For your example. In order that God would glorify his name, as he did through Jesus work of obedience.

Heb. 12:1 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."

Fix your eyes upon Jesus. Consider the man Jesus, who endured human anguish in order to bring glory to his father. And commit yourself to the same human purpose as he committed himself. "Father, glorify Your name."

Yet surely, there is more here. And Jesus explains himself quite clearly, and quite definitively.

v.31

That seems like a strange thing to say at this point, even out of context.

## II. THE JUDGMENT OF JESUS.

But it isn't out of place at all. Jesus endured the grief of death to be sure, the anguish of suffering unto death. But in doing so, he accomplished something very easy to define and identify. The judgment of God. What we see here is,

### A. Judgment accomplished.

v.31 "Now is the judgment of this world."

So his suffering, his death, was actually a victory. It was actually a victory, a victory over death itself. Here is what Paul says about what Jesus accomplished on the cross,

Col. 2:15 "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

Jesus brought judgment to the one whom John identifies as "the ruler of this world." That's the Devil. The ruler of all the forces of evil in this world.

John 16:8 "And when [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

The ruler of this world is judged! That's what Jesus accomplished on the cross. That's what he came to declare to the people gathered in Jerusalem. They were expecting a military messiah who would conquer their earthly and worldly enemies, and Jesus promises them something far greater. "Now is the judgment of this world."

And so we read,

Luke 10:17 "Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

And that, I believe, is the best way to understand the binding of Satan, found in,

Rev. 20:2 “He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”

“Now is the judgment of this world.” And that judgment has another great aspect, namely, salvation. Judgment upon the one who has the power of death is judgment upon death itself, the death of the death. The ending of the curse of death, the end of the sentence of condemnation. In other words, forgiveness of sins. And life. It is nothing less than the promise of the gospel. Christ’s death is nothing other than,

### **B. Salvation accomplished.**

v.32-33

Let’s unpack those verses. First the phrase, “if I am lifted up from the earth.” I believe the reference is to the crucifixion, lifted up upon the cross, as was the common method of execution in that day, which is what we are told in,

v.33

If I am lifted up to be hung upon a tree, if I am lifted up to be hung upon a cross, if I am lifted up to be put to death, then, Jesus says, not only is judgment upon the world accomplished, but so is salvation.

v.32

If I am put to death upon the cross, then I will draw all men to myself in salvation.

Now, it’s not “all men” in the sense of every single, solitary human being that has ever lived, for surely that hasn’t happened. But all men meaning all nations, not just from the one nation of Israel. The whole world, not just the one nation of Israel.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

It’s the same thing that John means when he writes,

1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

In other words, you. You who would believe. You who would trust in Jesus for your salvation. You who will receive him as your savior, to declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord!” You who will believe that God raised him from the dead. You will be saved.

Romans 10:13 “For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.””

“Whoever believes in Him [will] not perish but have everlasting life.” That’s the promise and the hope of the gospel, and that, my friends, is the salvation which Jesus has accomplished by his own suffering and death.

You will not save yourself, by your own good works. You will not earn or merit anything for yourselves, in terms of paying the price for your sins or satisfying the wrath of God which those sins deserve. Jesus paid it all. Jesus did it all. Jesus accomplished your salvation by being raised up from the earth and being hung upon a cross to die as the atoning sacrifice for your sins.

And that is the gospel which he proclaims as he enters Jerusalem this last week of his life. That is the gospel I proclaim to you today. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

John 1:12 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

The people didn’t understand. They didn’t understand why Jesus had to die. They didn’t understand the necessity of his death as the punishment for their sins. Ultimately, I believe, they didn’t understand the righteousness nor the justice of God. And so they didn’t understand who Jesus was talking about by referring to the Son of Man. So they question Jesus further,  
v.34

Jesus answers them in a way that would challenge them to repent of their sins, and in that way, to look to Jesus for their salvation. He condemns them for living in the darkness of unbelief, even as he invites them to come to the light of the gospel.

v.35-36

So let’s look at,

### **III. THE LIGHT OF JESUS.**

It is the light of life. In other words, it is the gospel. It is the message by which you are saved. And it has to do with light and darkness.

Darkness is consistently a symbol of death, a representation of living apart from God, separated from God, under the condemnation of God. Darkness represents what is evil, and it

defines the absence of the saving knowledge of God. To live in darkness is to live without God.

So this is the definition of a Christian,

Col. 1:13 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

And this, too,

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

John 8:12 “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.””

So it’s light-darkness. Good-evil. Life-death. And Jesus himself is the light. With this direct connection to the way we live our lives. God is life, and God is light. Therefore, those who belong to God live in the light. Not only does that mean all that you do is open and exposed for all to see, but that there is no shame. For living in the light means living the way Jesus wants you to live.

The son of man is lifted up to die, and he died in order to accomplish your salvation by satisfying the penalty of God’s perfect justice. And you receive that salvation by responding to the call of repentance. Turn from your sins, turn away from the darkness of your sins, and live in the light of Jesus.

## **A. Walk in the light of Jesus.**

v.35

In other words, the gospel has a direct bearing upon how you live your life!

Eph. 5:8 “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

That’s the call of the gospel. Walk in the light! Live in the light. With this warning about the danger of sin, “Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.” That’s what the darkness of sin does. It overtakes you. It enslaves you. It controls you. “Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.”

With disastrous consequences, “He who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.” If you live in sin, if your life is defined by your sin, then you have no future other than death. You do not know where you are going, and ultimately, you are going to hell. So walk in the light of Jesus. Where there is sin in your life, repent of it. Turn away from it. Put it away, and walk in the light of God’s word.

That’s Jesus message to those who came to see him. Along with the call to,

## **B. Believe in the light of Jesus.**

It’s not one or the other, believe or obey. It’s both. Walk in the light, living according to God’s word. And believe the light, the declaration of the gospel that promises life. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

Believe in his name, and believe that...

Acts 4:12 “...there [is no] salvation in any other, for there is no

other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

John tells us why he wrote this book, and I will use his words to tell you why I am preaching from this book,

John 20:31 “...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

1 John 1:5 “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

So do you believe? Will you believe? Believe in Jesus, and receive from him the gift of life. And walk in the light, turning away from your sin, so that you might have life.