

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus' Final Sermon to the Nation

Last time...Jesus was watching people giving freewill offerings at the Treasury in the Temple
Many rich men gave...little, no sacrifice of worship
A poor widow gave...all, a great sacrifice of worship

This time...Jesus delivers His Final Sermon to the Nation and puts several choices before them

We will be in John 12

v20-22 certain Greeks...worship...we would see Jesus:

The scene shifts from an outer court of the Temple where the collection boxes of the treasury were to the Court of the Gentiles

Our attention shifts from a poor widow who gave all to some Greeks/Gentiles who have come to Jerusalem to worship at the Feast of Pentecost

These Gentiles approach Philip with a request – We would/wish to see Jesus
Philip goes to Andrew and then both of them go to Jesus with this request by some Gentiles seeking Jesus

And the mystery of the Messiah comes a little more clearly into focus

Is 11:1-3	1 st Coming
Is 11:4-9	2 nd Coming (and Mil Reign)
Is 11:10	1 st Coming
Is 11:11-16	2 nd Coming

1st Coming of the Messiah

Is 11:1-3 His Identity and His ministry

Is 11:10 a Sign to the people (Jews) which the Gentiles will seek

v23-24 Jesus answered them...The hour is come:

There is no indication that Jesus goes to have a private meeting with the Gentiles, but He does answer the question in their hearts, the reason they want to see Him

What follows is Jesus' Final Sermon to the nation

His message: Life and Death

Hearers of the message have choices to make

The hour is come...The time has come

Previously John 2:4 Mine hour is not yet come (water into wine)

 Luke 4 hometown wanted to throw Him off the cliff

 John 7:30 they sought to take Him but no man laid
 and hands on Him because His hour was not yet
 John 8:20 come (Feast of Tabernacles)

that the Son of man should be glorified...His Resurrection, His conquest of death,
the triumph of Life over death

Heb 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so
 great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,
 and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run
 with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto
 Jesus the author and finisher of faith; who for the joy that
 was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
 and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God

Verily, verily...of a truth, of a truth (repeated for emphasis)

I say unto you...Thus saith the LORD

Except a corn of wheat...Unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies,
it remains alone

But if it dies, it will multiply...30x or 60x or 100x (Parable of Sower)

The power of multiplication

 If a single kernel of wheat is planted...

 And every kernel it produces is also planted

 Etc etc etc

 The world would be covered in wheat in 10 years

From death comes life

 1 Cor 15:36 that which you sow is not quickened except it die

v25 love...lose...hate...keep:

A paradox regarding life and death that Jesus has twice already taught His 12 disciples

Matt 10:39

Matt 16:25

This time He is teaching in the Temple, His Final Sermon to the nation

He that loves his life shall lose it...he that loves himself first (selfish love) will perish (eternal death)

He that hates his life shall keep it...he that dies to self in this world (loves self last) will preserve his life unto eternal life (not of this world)

Choice: Loving Self first (death) or loving Self last (life)

Now, to those who will die to Self in this world and thereby preserve their life...

v26 If any man serve Me...follow...honor:

If...a condition, a decision point

any man...whosoever will, Jew or Gentile, male or female

serve Me...one who dies to self in this world and loves Self last will serve Jesus, not himself

but

one who chooses to love Self first will serve himself, not Jesus

Choice: Serve Self or serve Jesus

He who serves Jesus will follow Jesus

Where is Jesus going?

To be persecuted and to suffer for the sins of mankind

To the Cross to lay down His life for others

To the grave

To rise again the 3rd day, taking up His life

To heaven, the right hand of His Father

Those who choose to die to self in this world and serve Jesus will follow Jesus...go where Jesus goes

John 14:1-3

Those who choose to serve Jesus the Father will honor – they made the correct choice!

v27 Now is My soul troubled:

Now...the hour/time has come...

- for the Lamb of God to be sacrificed
- v23...the Resurrection

Before glory (Resurrection) must come suffering (death)

Naturally/humanly, He is troubled by what lies just ahead...the Cross

But, as the Lamb of God Who came to take away the sin of the world,
what should He say?

“Father, deliver Me from this hour/time/trial/ordeal/horror of shame and
suffering and death.”?

“No, this hour/time/ordeal/horror is why I came.”

2 Cor 5:21, Heb 2:14-15, Rev 1:18

Matt 5:17 and now is the time appointed from before the foundation of the world
to fulfill Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53

Running away is not an option for Jesus, who is faithful to the Father

John 4:34 My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish
His work (redemption of fallen man)

Rev 13:8 Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world

Mid-sermon, Jesus turns heaven-ward in prayer

v28-30 Father, glorify thy name...voice from heaven:

The Son is all about the glory of the Father

And the Father responded to the Son “Jehovah is salvation”

I have glorified (past)...Baptism of Jesus and Transfiguration of Jesus

I will glorify (future) again...on the Cross and with the Resurrection of Jesus

The people heard a voice from heaven when Jesus prayed to His Father!

Some said the voice came as thunder

Others wrongly ascribed the voice to an angel

Jesus tells the people that the voice (His Father's, v28a) was not for His benefit
but for theirs

The Father bore witness to the hearers of His words that

- He sent His Son
- Jesus is the Son of God
- Jesus is the Christ/Messiah

v31 Now...judgment...prince of this world:
Now...v23

The result being

- judgment of this fallen and cursed world
- the devil will be cast out, will lose “territory” (Matt 16:17-19)

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

1 Cor 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

v32-33 I be lifted up...draw all...signifying what death:

v23 resulting in v31

Thus, comfort for Jesus’ troubled soul (v27), looking beyond the immediate to the end of the matter

I will

- be lifted up from the earth (John 3:14-17)
Is 11:10

The sign to the people (Jews) and the Gentiles seek is:
The Messiah, of the root of Jesse/David,
hanging on a Cross

- draw all to me (John 6:44, Rom 2:4)
Ps 86:9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

Indicating how He would die...as did:

The Son/Heir in the Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen
The kernel of wheat (v24)

Perhaps additional information for His disciples

Matt 16:20-21

Matt 17:9, 22-23

Luke 18:31-34

v34 Christ abideth forever:

The people respond to Jesus' foretelling of His death with several questions,
based on their premise

Their premise: The Messiah lives/remains forever

2 Sam 7:12-13 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Is 9:7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever

Their questions:

1. What do You mean the Messiah/Christ must be lifted up?
(Which means they understood what Jesus said in v32 –
He would be crucified)
The Messiah, which You claim to be (v23) lives forever, so...
2. Who is this Son of man?
(Which means they do not believe Jesus is the Messiah/Christ)

v35-36a walk while you have the light...believe in the light:

So Who is this Son of Man?

Jesus does not say directly, plainly: Me!

Instead, He speaks of light and darkness, life and death

John 8:12

John 1:4

In Him was life and the life was the light of men

I am with you for only a short time longer...the Cross is right before Him

Walk in the light/life...believe in the light (Me)

Lest darkness/death seize you

Is 50:10

Who *is* among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh *in* darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

v36b-37 departed...did hide...many miracles before them...they believed not:

Then, Jesus starts His exodus from the Temple

Henceforth He is going to focus on His 12 disciples

What is their condition as He leaves them?

Although He had performed many supernatural works in their presence
(they were eyewitnesses), they did not believe He was Who

- John the Baptist said He was
- He said He was (v34b)
- His works (the miracles) said He was
- The Father said He was
- The Scriptures said He was

Seeing is not believing...believing is seeing

Miracles do not produce faith...the Word of God does (Rom 10:17)

Their condition: darkness/death

John 6:28-29 Ah...no!

John 8:24

v38-41 the saying of Isaiah:

The condition of the people/Jews is a fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah

Is 53:1 report = testimony = witness

Is 6:9-10 they hardened their hearts to the Word of God,
God contended with them confirmed their choice

v42-43 among the chief rulers...but...for they loved:

How tragic is this?!

Chief rulers of synagogues believed that Jesus was the Christ...BUT because

1. of the Pharisees...John 9:22

2. they loved the praise/honor of men more than the praise/honor
of God (v25-26)

they did not confess Him as such

Matt 10:32-33 **Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him
will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.
But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also
deny before my Father which is in heaven**

(silence is deny)

Gal 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please
men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of
Christ

v44-46 on me...not on me:

Jesus' parting words in His Final Sermon to the nation (Message: Life and Death)

He that believes on Me, the Light (I am the Son of man)
believes on the Father Who sent Me (v27-28)

He that sees Me sees the Father (John 1:18)

Whosoever...any who so chooses...believes in Jesus will not remain in
darkness/death

Darkness/death reigns on earth
Jesus came as Light/Life into the world (v35-36)

John 5:24

Col 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to
be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who
hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath
translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom
we have redemption through his blood, *even* the
forgiveness of sins

v47-50 hear My words and believe not:

Choice: believe or reject the words of Jesus

Whosoever chooses to not believe but to reject the words of Jesus will be
judged by...the words of Jesus they rejected

As He told Nicodemus, He did not come to judge the world...this time
But, according to Is 11, He does the 2nd time

For I have not spoken of Myself:

Deut 18:18-19 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like
unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak
unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass,
that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall
speak in my name, I will require *it* of him

The words of Jesus are the words of the Father (v28-30)

The words of the Father are eternal life (v46, John 6:63b)

To reject the words of Jesus/the Father is to reject eternal life (Light) and to hold
onto eternal death (darkness)

Jesus Christ's Final Sermon to the nation dealt with

- Life and death
- Light and darkness
- believing and not believing

Choices that must be made by the hearers of His message

- Love Self first (darkness/death) or love Self last (light/life)
- Serve Self (darkness/death) or serve Jesus (light/life)
- Reject the words of Jesus (darkness/death) or receive/believe the words of Jesus (light/life)

The Creator God has provided signs to guide us into making the right choices

1st sign at Jesus' 1st Coming

Is 11:10

His being lifted up on the Cross for the sins of the people was the sign to the people/Jews that the Gentiles will seek...and His rest (Resurrection, victory) will be glorious

2nd sign before Jesus' 2nd Coming

Is 11:11-12

Israel is a nation in her land

We CLEARLY see the 2nd sign, so the choices to be made are urgent!

Application

1. God's plea to the hearers of the words of Jesus (Life and Death): Chose this day to

- Love Self last
- Serve Jesus
- Receive/believe every word of Jesus

Jesus' Final Message to every person: v36, v46

Choose life, be forgiven of your sin, and be reconciled to God!!!

Surrender unconditionally to the One who has defeated death and offers the gift of eternal life to whosoever would believe in Him

2. This nation is facing the issue of life and death

- of helpless innocents, God's children, that can be murdered up to the moment of birth (even after) for any reason
 - late term abortion (3rd trimester)...infanticide
 - NY, VA, RI, LA
 - VT...CA
 - Only nations that allow are USA, Canada, and China
 - pure unadulterated evil in the eyes of God
 - Ironically, "pro-choice"...and the choice is death (child not given a choice)

- of the nation

1 Cor 10:11	Now all these things happened unto them (the history of Israel) for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.
2 Kings 21:1-16	<p>the reign of Manasseh, king of Judah Did evil in the sight of the Lord, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• kicked the Lord God out of the society• worshipped the creature rather than the Creator• sacrificed children to false gods• entered into the demonic spiritual realm• were more evil than the nations around them• shed innocent blood (murdered children), filling Jerusaelm with blood, doing evil in the sight of the Lord <p>The Lord said He would bring judgment and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• every ear that heard would tingle• He would wipe Jerusaelm as a man wipes a dish
2 Chron 33:11-19	<p>The Lord afflicted Manasseh Manasseh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• humbled himself before the LORD• knew that the LORD is God• repented, bore the fruit of repentance – change, reversal of course• was forgiven of his sin (individual sinner)
2 Kings 22-23	the reign of Josiah, grandson of Manasseh: Revival!!! Judgment of God was stayed, but...

2 Kings 24:1-4

Judgment did come **to the nation**,
“for the sins of Manasseh...
for the innocent blood he shed...
which the LORD would not pardon.”

Jer 26:1-2

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word from the LORD, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, **all the words** that I command thee to speak unto them; **diminish not a word**:

This nation was founded upon the God of Israel and His Word

Ps 33:12a Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD

But in our material prosperity and power, this nation has

- kicked the Lord God out of our society...1962-1963
- entered into the demonic spiritual realm
- sacrificed children to false gods, shed innocent blood...1973...
(murdered children), filling this land with blood and doing evil in the sight of the Lord
- worshipped the creature rather than the Creator (cancerworm)
- have become more evil than the nations around us

After 1963 and 1973, revival

The Jesus Movement

Preaching the Gospel, teaching the entire counsel of God

Judgment of God was stayed

But now

- the evil in the sight of the Lord “blossoms”
- there is a famine of the Word of God (Amos 8:11-12)

As did Israel, this nation is choosing death over life

Can we rationally as a nation commit the sins of Manasseh and expect the Lord to deal with us differently than He did Israel?!

Man will be judged by the Word of God

Nations will be judged by the Word of God

America is not great again!

America needs to repent before the Living God to be great again

We the Body of Christ, all we Jeremiahs, must call this nation to repentance!

Rom 10:13-17 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Repentance and revival starts with one person, grows one person at a time
1 John 5:9-13

The Lord's message is clear: Life or death

That was His Final Message to Israel

That is His Final Message to every nation, to this nation

We must speak out, we must NOT be silent!

And diminish not a word of God's

We must shine the Light on the unadulterated evil of murdering innocent babies

We must call upon the political leaders of this nation to humble themselves before the Lord God Almighty Who rules in the kingdoms of men

We must pray that they will cry out, "We must see Jesus!"

That is His Final Message to every person:

Choose life, be forgiven of your sins and be reconciled to God!!!

We must take the message to the lost running or trapped in the abortion industry