

**JOHN 12:23-43**  
**THE MESSIAH TEACHES!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 12 as we continue our in-depth teaching on the Gospel of John.

As John chapter 12 opens up we find ourselves just some six days before the Passover, the last Passover that Jesus would celebrate with His men before He went to the cross to pay in full the penalty for our sins!

In our last study we saw Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem as the Mashiach Nagid or the Messiah the Prince. The only time Jesus allowed the people to worship Him that way.

This was the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nissan on the Jewish calendar, and it was the exact day that Daniel was told that this would happen. Remember, Daniel was told that 173,880 days from the going forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah the Prince!

The command was given by Artaxerxes on March 14, 445 B.C. and if you counted off those days you would come to April 6, 32 A.D. or what we call Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus made His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, as I have said.

Keep in mind that Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.  
 (John 1:29)

Also, this was Passover and the lambs that were being brought into Jerusalem to be sacrificed were inspected to see if there was any spot or blemish on them. If there was, they could not be sacrificed.

And this took place from the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nissan to the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nissan.

And what blows my mind is that Jesus, the Lamb of God was being inspected by the Jews who came to Jerusalem, the Jews who lived in Jerusalem, the Jewish religious leaders, Pilate, Herod and others to see if they could find fault in Him.

But, as Pilate rightly said, "**I find no fault in this Man.**" Luke 23:4.

As we finished up last time, we read John 12:20-22, which says, "**Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'**  
**Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus."**

As we are going to see this morning, Jesus is going to be teaching those Jews who came to Jerusalem for this feast. He is going to be teaching those Jews who lived in Jerusalem. He is going to be teaching the Jewish religious leaders. And He is going to be teaching these Greeks or Gentiles who were in Jerusalem for this feast.

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into the following points as we look at – ***THE MESSIAH TEACHES!***

They are,

***HIS TIME HAS COME – JOHN 12:23-26***

***A TROUBLED SOUL – JOHN 12:27-30***

***PRICE PAID – JOHN 12:31-33***

***CONFUSION – JOHN 12:34-36***

***SOME BELIEVED – JOHN 12:37-43***

As we are going to see, Jesus is going to teach some very important and challenging things. And as we have seen, He is a master teacher because the things that He taught changed people's lives.

Let me share this story with you and show you what I mean about how we can change people's lives by what we say, how we challenge them in life, the examples we set for ourselves, and they see.

It is the story of John Wooden and he died some twelve years ago but the impact he had on his players continues on. We are told,

[John Wooden's] UCLA teams won ten NCAA championships in 12 years. . . . No one speaks more eloquently about Wooden than Bill Walton, who played for UCLA at a troubled time in America, a time of Vietnam and Watergate, a time when young people were asking hard questions, when dissent was in style.

For Wooden, the answers never changed. "We thought he was nuts," Walton said. "But in all his preaching's and teachings, everything he told us turned out to be true. . . .

"His interest and goal were to make you the best basketball player but first to make you the best person," Walton said. "He would never talk wins and losses but what we needed to succeed in life. Once you were a good human being, you had a chance to be a good player. He never deviated from that.

"He never tried to be your friend. He was your teacher, your coach. He handled us with extreme patience."

Today, Walton talks with the 90-year-old Wooden frequently. "He has thousands of maxims. He is more John Wooden today than ever. He is a man who truly has principles and ideas. . . . He didn't teach basketball. He taught life.

"When you're touched by someone that special, it changes your life," he said. "You spend your life chasing it down, trying to recreate it.

"He stopped coaching UCLA 25 years ago. Now he just coaches the world."

- More Perfect Illustrations for Every Topic and Occasion

As much as John Wooden influenced his players, the Lord Jesus Christ is in a league of His own. He knows just what to say and how to deal with each of us on an individual level. And thus, what He is teaching here was for the people of His day and it is for us as well!

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 12, beginning in verse 23 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic – ***THE MESSIAH TEACHES!***

## **JOHN 12**

### **VERSES 23-26**

Remember what I have called these verses – ***MY TIME HAS COME!***

Now that is interesting to me because in John 2:4 we see Jesus speak to His mother, Mary and say, “... ‘Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.’”

And in John 7:6-8 we are told, “Then Jesus said to them, ‘My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come.’”

His whole life was leading up to this period of time when Jesus would go the cross of Calvary to pay for the sins of the world! His time has come!

And remember, these Greeks wanted to see Jesus and we see that Andrew and Philip bring them to Jesus and He is speaking to them as well as the others who had gathered around.

And listen closely again to what Jesus says here, “... ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.’” John 12:23.

I think many times we just read through verses and don’t think much about it. I don’t know about you, but if I was going to go through what was ahead for Jesus, I don’t think I would use the word “*glorified*”!

I might say, “*The hour has come for me to be crucified!*”

But that is not what He says, even though it is very true, He is going to be crucified on the cross of Calvary!

But Jesus looked beyond the cross and focused on the end result of what He was going to do, He would be received back up into glory.

Remember what Jesus said in Luke 24:26, “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

And that is exactly what is going to take place and Paul expounds on that in Hebrews 12:2 as he wrote, “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.”

Again, Jesus saw beyond the cross to the glory that would follow!

And let’s think about this day that we call Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus rode through Jerusalem as the Messiah the Prince.

It is a day that was spoken of in Psalm 118:24-28 where we are told, “This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You.”

You see, not only the salvation that Jesus would bring, but the sacrifice would be bound on the altar and offered up – this is the day the Lord has made!

Of these words, Morris tells us, “*In this Gospel we see Jesus as the world's Saviour, and evidently John means us to understand that this contact with the Greeks ushered in the climax . . . Jesus sees it as evidence that His mission has reached its climax and that he is now to die for the world, Greeks included.*”

Jesus did not just come to save the Jews or save this group of people or that group of people. Jesus came to pay in full for the sins of every person on this planet at that time and all those who would come afterwards.

It is as Jesus said in John 3:16-17, “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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

And please understand that the way this verse here in John 12:23 is written, this is a done deal. Morris gives us this insight as he wrote about the words, “has come”, “*The verb ‘is come’ is in the perfect tense, ‘the hour has come and stays with us.’ There is no going back on it.*”

Remember that Jesus is speaking to these Greeks who were brought to Him, as well as a variety of Jews, as I have said.

And what is interesting here is that Jesus does not go back to the Old Testament prophecies that speak of the Messiah because they would not know them.

What He does do is He speaks to them at their level, an agricultural reference or science. He starts out by speaking of a seed and how a seed must go into the ground and die for a harvest to come, for fruit to come.

And the point was this. Jesus must be put to death and buried for life to come. Before there can be that resurrection power, before there can be fruit produced, there must be death!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

*“Most assuredly I say to you . . . ” (v.24) introduces a solemn affirmation. The analogy of a kernel of wheat “dying” in the ground and producing many seeds teaches that death is necessary for a harvest.*

*Seed never produces grain until first it falls into the ground and dies. The Lord Jesus here referred to Himself as a grain of wheat. If He did not die, He would abide alone. He would enjoy the glories of heaven by Himself; there would be no saved sinners there to share His glory. But if He died, He would provide a way of salvation by which many might be saved.*

- Source Unknown

Thus, through the death and resurrection of Jesus we see that He has provided **THE WAY** of salvation and thus, many will be saved, there will be much fruit.

Next Jesus says in John 12:25, “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” What is that all about?

Please don't misinterpret what this verse is saying, as some do. When it speaks of hating our lives, don't go around and say, "***I hate my life! That is what Jesus said I was to do!***"

No, it isn't. And think about it. If you go around hating your life you are not praising God for your life, you hate what God has given you!

Then what is Jesus speaking of here?

To hate your life means that you have no self-centeredness, you are Christ-centered!

You are committed to Him. Thus, don't let anything or anyone get in the way of your relationship with Him!

Death to the old life and raised up new in Christ!

Let me show you what I mean about where we are at today with self-worship and it is what Paul warned us about in II Timothy 3:2, "**For men will be lovers of themselves . . .**"

We are told,

In their recent book Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You're irrelevant and Extreme, David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons document that 84 percent of Americans believe that "***enjoying yourself is the highest goal of life.***"

Further, 86 percent believe that to enjoy yourself you must "***pursue the things you desire most.***"

And 91 percent affirm this statement: "***To find yourself, look within yourself.***"

In our day, the Westminster Catechism answer has been inverted: "***the chief end of man is to glorify and enjoy himself forever.***"

One could even make a case that self-worship is the world's fastest-growing religion. It is certainly the world's oldest (just read Gen. 3). Moreover, this religion lies beneath many of the most hot-button social and political issues of our day.

These are the sacred commandments of this ancient and still-trending world religion:

- **Your mind is the source and standard of truth**, so no matter what, trust yourself. . . .
- **Your emotions are authoritative**, so never question (or let anyone else question) your feelings. . . .
- **You are sovereign**, so flex your omnipotence and bend the universe around your dreams and desires. . . .
- **You are supreme**, so always act according to your chief end, to glorify and enjoy yourself forever. . . .
- **You are the *summum bonum*** - the standard of goodness - so don't let anyone oppress you with the antiquated notion of being a sinner who needs grace. . . .

Here's the problem with this cult of self-worship - besides the obvious problem of being a rebellion against God: When we try to be our own sources of truth, we slowly drive ourselves crazy. When we try to be our own sources of satisfaction, we become miserable wrecks. When we become our own standard of goodness and justice, we become obnoxiously self-righteous. When we seek self-glorification, we become more inglorious [disgraceful].

Why? It's simple. We are not God. We were never meant to trust in or be defined by, satisfied in, and captivated by ourselves. We were made to revere someone infinitely more interesting and awesome than ourselves. We become most truly and freely ourselves in a state of self-forgetful reverence. As Albert Einstein put it, "***A person first starts to live when he can live outside himself.***"

The more self-absorbed we are, the less awe we experience; the less awe we experience, the less fully and freely ourselves we become. . . .

Do we want happier, fuller lives? . . . Let us be awestruck by something, or rather someone, infinitely bigger than ourselves. If we're going to have a lasting, countercultural effect on a society that has fallen for the cult of self-worship, then let's recenter our lives on the "***God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all those who are around him.***"

- <https://bit.ly/3yEPwwv>

Think about that for a minute. If we want to live eternally in heaven someday, then we have to die here on earth right now. We need to die to our rights, our comforts, our interests, our will, and our goals to live for Jesus.

I think many don't serve in the body of Christ because they are too busy trying to fill their lives with the things that they want to do instead of what God has called them to do. I am not saying we can't enjoy ourselves, but that, many times is the focus of our lives!

And God will use us as He pleases, the sacrifices that He is calling someone to make may be different and probably will be different than the sacrifices He is calling you to make. Some will sacrifice their life for their faith.

Therefore, what the Lord is saying here is that whoever lives only to save his earthly, physical life, to enjoy earthly pleasures and comforts and acceptance from the world, will lose his opportunity for eternal life.

On the other end of the spectrum, whoever is willing to give up his earthly life to follow Jesus and to suffer and die for Christ's sake, if need be, these are the qualities that make up genuine saving faith which brings eternal life!

Paul put it this way in Romans 6:5-9, where he said, “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.”

Praise God for the life He has given us! May we follow Him as He leads us in our service to Him!

For Jesus – ***HIS TIME HAS COME!***

What about each of us? Are we ready to go out and serve the Lord at any capacity?

My son Joe went to Cyprus to bring the Gospel to Muslims. Not a very welcoming part of the world. And he told me that he did not realize how dark it was, how hard it would be, and yet, he spoke to people, went into their places of worship and shared Jesus. And one woman was saved. Not only that but he started a dialogue with others, and they were interested.

What was interesting was that someone, who did not understand English, did understand when Joe spoke of Jesus and he came to those he was speaking to and said, “***This one is of the Devil!***” And they had to leave very quickly! Spiritual warfare and yet he was willing to go where God had called him, no matter the danger!

As we read on, we will see – ***A TROUBLED SOUL!***

VERSES 27-30

Did you ever think about that, that the soul of Jesus was troubled? Why was His soul troubled? What is Jesus speaking of here?

It was the cross and Jesus realized what the cross was all about, what He would have to endure, the separation from the Father for a time, and His flesh was saying "**No!**"

We see the humanity of Christ here, that He understands what we go through because He experienced these things as well.

Yes, the cross meant incredible pain and suffering!

And yes, the cross meant a separation from the Father for a time, three hours, as the sins of the world were placed upon Him. He bore the judgment that was due us!

But instead of resisting or refusing to go to the cross, He embraced it and prayed that the Father be glorified through it.

You see, He knew what He had to do as He said, "**But for this purpose I came to this hour.**"

Trench put it like this as he wrote, "*The very object of His Incarnation, the reason of this His Coming into the world and of His continuance to this hour was to meet this Suffering.*"

You see, He had conflicting emotions, but what was His desire? To glorify the Father in His actions. And as Jesus pours out His heart listen to the response from heaven!

**“... ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’”** John 12:28.

This was assurance from God the Father. Approaching the cross, the great concern of Jesus was to glorify the Father, and He was assured that He already had and would continue to do so.

You see, the Father was glorified by the work of Jesus. As we go through tough times, difficult situations, our emotions telling us one thing and God another, glorify the Father in your obedience to Him in spite of the conflicting emotions.

I am sure that there are many things that trouble our soul, we just don't understand them, they seem so unfair and many times we run or get angry with God about them.

There was a movie several years ago now, with Mel Gibson. The movie was called "**Signs**," and it was about extra-terrestrials, UFO's and all that transpired with this invasion.

That was the central theme of the movie and yet, there was a story of this man's faith and how it was shattered when his wife died, leaving him to raise his two children.

It was such a blow to him that he left the ministry, he was a pastor, and now he denied his faith.

At one point in the movie, when things even got worse for him, if you could even imagine, he yell's out to God, "***I hate You!***"

Have you ever been there? Be honest!

You see, things are not going the way we want, and we are angry with God for it!

What is the problem?

We have lost the correct perspective. You see, instead of glorifying God it is all about us and we want to be taken out of the situation, but how do you know if you were not born for such a time like this, that for this purpose you are brought to this point?

Maybe you don't feel that way. Maybe you feel like standing up and shouting out, "***Nobody knows the trouble I've seen. Nobody knows the sorrow!***"

I disagree.

You see, God does and before you were even created in the womb, He knew what your life would be like, the things He has for you. Not only that, but He also understands your pain because He has suffered!

Now, let me show you what I mean, that these are not just empty words, but they are things that happen in our lives for a reason, for a purpose, if we would only see them through the eyes of God, with the backdrop of eternity in mind, knowing that God's love towards us is rich and it is deep!

Look at the story of Joseph and see how his brother's sold him into slavery and how he served the Lord through it all, even when the good he was doing, made things harder for him.

He was thrown into prison, accused of raping Potiphar's wife. He didn't.

In prison he interprets some dreams for the baker and butler who were put in prison because one of them was threatening to kill Pharaoh.

For the baker, he was the one and he would be executed, that was the dream that Joseph interpreted for him.

For the butler, he would be restored, and Joseph told him when he was, to let Pharaoh know that he does not belong in prison.

For a two whole years the butler forgot about Joseph until Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret, and he then remembered, and Joseph was brought before Pharaoh. He interpreted the dream and was placed second in charge over all of Egypt, only Pharaoh would be higher!

Then there was the famine in the land that Joseph told Pharaoh, part of his dream. And Jacob and his family, the brothers of Joseph are experiencing this famine as well and the only food was down in Egypt as they prepared for this famine.

So, in a series of events, they go down to Egypt, Joseph tells them who he is and the whole family comes to Egypt.

Think about this. Joseph spent some thirteen years of his life serving as a slave, then in prison, before he was elevated to second in charge over all of Egypt!

He could have been angry at God, but he wasn't. He glorified God in all that he did.

In fact, in Genesis 45:5 we see Joseph tell his evil brothers about what they did to him, “... for God sent me before you to preserve life.” In other words, to save the Jewish people God sent Joseph down to Egypt.

Not only that, but in Genesis 50:19-20, after the death of their father Jacob, the boys are worried that Joseph will kill them for what they did to him. And we are told, “Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’”

What a great perspective to have. God was in control of his life and at 1 year, 5 years, 8 years, 10 years, 13 years he did not understand it fully, but he trusted in God and now he is able to say that the evil that they meant for Joseph, God turned it around for good!

I don't know what you are going through this morning, but whatever it is, can you walk by faith trusting that God knows what you are going through, He understands it and He will see you through. And through it all you can bring glory to God!

I like the way that one author put it. He wrote, “***Jesus willingly expressed His submission to the will of the Father in the words, ‘Father, glorify Your name!’ So also, believers in difficulty should stand and embrace His will - desiring that His name be glorified - in spite of conflicting emotions. [Jesus’ supreme desire] was the glory of God. What a lesson that is for us! We tend to whimper and cry and complain and ask God why He lets unpleasant things happen to us. With Christ, we should learn to say, ‘Father, through this suffering and through this pain, glorify Thyself.’”***

I don’t know about you but for me, “***Lord help me to trust in you and to glorify you in all that I am going through!***”

Now we see in John 12:29 that as God the Father spoke these words, some in the crowd thought it was the sound of thunder.

I find that interesting in that so many people, when they see a supernatural work of God, want to attribute some kind of natural explanation to it. They just can’t accept it is from God!

Others did recognize that this was not thunder but they were unsure what it really was. Maybe an angel spoke, they were not really sure!

Let me say this. If you don’t have spiritual ears to hear, you will try to give earthly explanations to spiritual issues, spiritual things.

Paul said in I Corinthians 2:10-11, “**But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”**

If you have spiritual ears, you will hear the voice of God, thus you are born again for the Spirit of God dwells in you, teaching you the things of God!

So we see here – ***A TROUBLED SOUL!***

As we read on, we will see the – ***PRICE PAID!***

### VERSES 31-33

When we think of what Jesus has done for us on the cross of Calvary, we tend to just think of paying in full the payment for our sin. That is awesome, but there is more as we read here.

He also judged the “**world**” or the fallen world system which is controlled by Satan! All the sin, the corruption, the rebellion was judged by Jesus.

Now you may be thinking, “***Hey, wait a minute pastor Joe. We still see this fallen world system that is controlled by the Devil. So how could it be judged?***”

That is a great question. The ***VERDICT*** that came from the cross of Calvary was ***GUILTY!*** But the ***SENTENCE*** will not be carried out in full until the future, and we see that recorded for us in the book of Revelation as well as many of the Old Testament prophets spoke of this day of the wicked judged and God establishing righteousness on the earth.

Now let me deal with this issue of our sins. You see, the judgment for the sins of the world would now be paid in full for us on the cross of Calvary by Jesus for all who will receive Him.

Isaiah 53:6 tells us, “**All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**”

Also, in Colossians 2:14-15 we are told, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

We are also told here the method of His sacrificial death – ***CRUCIFIXION!***

That phrase “lifted up” speaks of a literal elevation, the cross!

Jesus said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

John 12:32.

By Jesus going to the cross and dying for our sins, it made it possible for the Spirit of God to draw all peoples to Himself for salvation!

And this is important for us to understand because there are some who believe that Jesus only died for some people. That is not true. You see, this gift of salvation, the forgiveness of sins is there for everyone to receive.

In regard to what Jesus says in John 12:32 regarding “all peoples” Spurgeon wrote, “*There is no exclusion of any class or creature from the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. ‘I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me’; and the history of the church proves how true this is: the muster-roll of the converted includes princes and paupers, peers and potmen [a worker who does various chores].*”

Not only that, not only were our sins nailed to the cross of Calvary but also the power of Satan was defeated at the cross. We don’t have to walk after the flesh any longer, but we can walk in the Spirit of God in victory because of Jesus!

It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 1:22-24, “For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Keep the cross in the center of your life, in all that you do for it is cross-generational, both young and old can gather together.

It is cross-cultural, all people can come together.

It is when we place the cross aside that divisions come!

It is when we put the cross aside all hope is gone!

The ***PRICE WAS PAID*** by Jesus for us and one day, I believe that day is getting closer and closer, we will see the culmination of all of this as judgment comes upon a Christ rejecting world.

Don’t pass up the day for today is the day of salvation!

After Jesus spoke these words, we now see – ***CONFUSION!***

### VERSES 34-36

After all that they had seen and heard about Jesus and they are wondering, “Who is this Son of Man?” How can that be?

The reason for all this ***CONFUSION*** was that they had been taught the passages in the Old Testament that spoke of the ruling and reigning Messiah. They negated the ones that spoke of the Messiah being a suffering servant.

In fact, they had believed in two Messiahs. For a time, they believed in Messiah Ben Joseph or the suffering servant.

And they believed in Messiah Ben David or the reigning King!

They are in bondage to Rome and thus, they were not looking for the suffering servant, that was far from their minds, it was not what they were being taught, and thus, bring on the conquering King!

Thus, they were now wondering if Jesus was really the Messiah, the Son of Man!

Let me give you a few verses to show you what I mean.

Micah 4:7 says, “**I will make the lame a remnant, And the outcast a strong nation; So the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on, even forever.”**

Daniel 7:13-14 tells us, “**I was watching in the night visions, And behold, one like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.”**

And lastly, in Isaiah 9:6-7 we are told, “**And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”**

And there are many other Scriptures that speak of His everlasting Kingdom.

Now, because they looked for a political leader to free them from the bondage of Rome, they negated, they overlooked the Scriptures that spoke of the Messiah being the suffering servant such as Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53.

And then, in John 12:35-36 Jesus answers them and He is speaking of His public ministry coming to an end, it was almost over. The light was going out, in a sense.

In a sense, this is a last call, a final plea for the nation of Israel to respond to the truth of God before it was too late.

Listen to what one writer had to say about this. He wrote, *“We have met this image of light and darkness before (John 1:4–9; 3:17–20; 8:12; 9:39–41). By a simple step of faith, these people could have passed out of spiritual darkness and into the light of salvation. This marked the end of our Lord’s public ministry as far as John’s record is concerned. Jesus departed and hid Himself. It was judgment on the nation that saw His miracles, heard His messages, and scrutinized His ministry - and yet refused to believe on Him.”*

And please understand this. As sad as this was and is, this warning was not only directed at Israel back then. But it is also directed at people today! While you have the light you need to believe in the light.

Remember what we are told in Genesis 6:3, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever...:”

Thus, while it is light, we must answer His call to us before it is too late and we see that for the nation of Israel as John tells us in John 12:36, “...these things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.”

How sad. They didn’t want to see and thus, they remained blinded to the things of God!

As we finish up, we will see that – ***SOME BELIEVED!***

VERSES 37-43

The key word in verses 37 through verse 50, the end of the chapter, is “believe”.

It is used some eight times!

Yes, they saw the signs that Jesus did showing that He was the One the Old Testament prophets spoke of regarding the Messiah. But “they did not believe in Him.” John 12:37.

You see, in spite of all the evidence, the Jewish religious leaders kept hardening their hearts to Jesus to the point where they could no longer believe, they could no longer be saved.

They had committed what Jesus called back in Matthew chapter 12, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit or the rejection of what the Holy Spirit was doing, drawing people to Jesus!

They were blinded to the things of God because of unbelief! And please understand that when Isaiah says that “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart” it is not speaking of God just doing this to them.

Actually, what happens is that in the face of a person’s continual rejection of God’s offer of salvation, their heart becomes harder and harder until at one point God honors their decision to reject His Son and He hardens their heart all the more.

We see that with Pharaoh as he hardens his heart to the things of God in Exodus and then God made firm what was in Pharaoh’s heart!

Morris explains it like this, “***He does not mean that the blinding takes place without the will or against the will of these people. So with the hardening of their heart. These men chose evil. It was their own deliberate choice, their own fault.***

For the nation of Israel, the light was going out, many had passed that point of no return –

***THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE!***

You may remember this story, but it is powerful, and it does drive home the point. We are told,

*“During World War II, an American naval force in the North Atlantic was engaged in heavy battle with enemy ships and submarines on an exceptionally dark night. Six planes took off from the carrier to search out those targets, but while they were in the air a total blackout was ordered for the carrier in order to protect it from attack. Without lights on the carrier’s deck the six planes could not possibly land. They made a radio request for the lights to be turned on just long enough for them to come in - but because the entire carrier, with its several thousand men, would have been put in jeopardy, no lights were permitted. When the six planes ran out of fuel, they had to ditch in the freezing water and all crew members perished into eternity.”*

God also reaches a point when He “*turns out the lights*” in a hardhearted person’s life and the opportunity for salvation is then gone forever

We see that portrayed for us in Romans 1:18-26a as Paul tells us, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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, so that they are without excuse, 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. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness,

**in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. . .”**

You see, they rejected God and God gave them over to their vile passions just as we see today!

It is possible to harden your heart so much, that you reject Jesus so much that you reach a point where you can't believe!

What a sad state to be in, as was the case for these Jewish religious leaders.

Thus, while there is light, while the light is shining, receive Jesus!

Now, in spite of all this unbelief, we see in John 12:42-43 that some did believe!

You see, these religious leaders recognized Jesus as the Messiah. I do understand that many say that they were not saved, but I tend to lean on the fact that they were saved.

The reason I say that is because of Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. They were saved and yet they were secret believers for a time. The thing is you can't be a secret Christian for too long, you will have to make your faith known!

Be careful here. Do you love the praise of men more than the praise of God?

Remember what Jesus said in John 12:25, “**He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”**

Now, as I begin to rap our study up this morning, let me share these words with you from Ray Stedman. He wrote,

The other day we had an electrical problem develop at our house when a circuit breaker kept cutting off electricity from several important appliances.

At first we thought this was due to an overloaded circuit, so we began to turn off certain appliances while we carefully monitored the circuit. But to no avail. It actually got worse, so that even one operating appliance tripped the circuit and we had to keep switching it back on every few minutes.

We began to think the circuit breaker itself was faulty.

Finally I checked the box very carefully and discovered that one wire leading into the circuit breaker was touching another wire. Although the wires were insulated, when I pulled them apart I found that the insulation had been eaten through so that current was leaking through and short-circuiting the circuit breaker.

As I repaired the wires, I thought of the parallel to the operation of faith. We all have a capacity for faith - we all can believe truth when we hear it and know it to be truth - but frequently some misuse leaks the faith away.

We insist on some compromise, we cover our eyes and will not admit something is wrong, and faith drains away till the circuit breaker of natural law turns off the flow of God's power.

The question John leaves us with is this: Is something draining your faith? Are you unable to lay hold of the great and glorious promises of the gospel because there is some area where you are deceiving yourself, where you are clinging to something the Scripture clearly says is wrong? Perhaps you are refusing to enter a relationship God wants you to have, or to lay hold of some opportunity he sets before you.

Where are you closing your eyes to truth? That is the issue. Eventually that will lead at last to the question of your ultimate destiny before God.

As we have seen this morning – **HIS TIME HAS COME!** Yes, back then He went to the cross as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. But He is coming again, and I believe that **HIS TIME HAS COME** for Him to come for His bride, the Church and pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world before setting up His Kingdom on this earth where He will rule and reign in righteousness!

We also saw that Jesus had a **TROUBLED SOUL!** He saw what He would have to endure to save man from His sin and I believe He has a **TROUBLED SOUL** today as He sees the wickedness of man, the rebellion of man and their refusal to come to saving faith in Him!

And keep in mind that the **PRICE WAS PAID** in full by Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. We can't work our way in, pay our way in, be good enough to get in. All we must do is repent of our sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives! The **PRICE WAS PAID!**

And I realize, like back then, there is much **CONFUSION** today because people think they are good enough, they don't need a Savior and the list goes on and on for why people reject Jesus. There should be no confusion. God requires perfection to enter into His presence and we miss that mark. Our only hope is for the forgiveness of our sins by Jesus and allow Him to give to us His righteousness!

And yet, **SOME BELIEVED**, but many did not. They closed their eyes to the truth and remained in their sins. They hardened their hearts to God so much they passed the point of no return in regard to their salvation.

Don't harden your hearts to God, today is the day for salvation!