

STANLEY FAITH EV FREE

Pastor Michael Thompson Sunday June 18th, 2017

John 12:44-50 Save Now Judge Later

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Last week we covered 37 through 43 in which John reviewed the first 12 chapters of this book. The focus of this review was that in all 12 chapters we see Religious Leaders consistently rejecting Jesus at all turns no matter what kind of teaching and miracles are presented.

John then gave us the why. Why did so many reject Jesus? Because He God gave them the leader that they could not follow. With their emphasis on power and politics and killing their enemies God sent a pacifist who had no political ambitions. Only those who rally around the work of the Spirit of God to change and heal hearts and lives will rally around Jesus.

If politics money fame and outward appearances are your primary focus you will never fully embrace Jesus and His kingdom. So that was the overview of why Religious Leaders and many others rejected Him and will always reject or halfheartedly embrace Jesus. He does not play by our rules and does not build what we idolize.

And today Jesus will give one more statement imploring people to come to The Father through Jesus The Son. Watch the emotion of Jesus as He implores people to believe. Let's read the text together.

READING THE TEXT

Jesus Came to Save the World

44 And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. 45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. 47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a

commandment—what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

PREACHING THE TEXT

Jesus Came to Save the World

44 And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. 45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

IN HIM WHO SENT ME

The religious leaders and people believed in God The Father. But most of their accusations against Jesus were that He was not working for The Father but just came on the scene all by Himself. He’s just another David Koresh or screwy tv preacher who pretends to speak for God but who just wants a following and lots of money.

The is why it was significant earlier in the chapter when the whole crowd hear the Father speak from heaven just like He did at the baptism of Jesus and confirmed that this Jesus works within the will of The Father to the glory of The Father.

Those who come on their own apart from God’s sanction do not raise the dead, cast out demons and demonstrate authority over wind and waves.

SEE ME = SEE HIM WHO SENT ME

Jesus continues by stating that if you see me you have seen The Father.

AVATAR ILLUSTRATION: Recent movies have used the Avatar concept. An Avatar is a disembodied deity that comes down and takes human form. In video games, an avatar is a character that represents you and speaks for you and takes action for you in the game in which you are playing.

In the game, you are invisible. But your avatar is the image that speaks and acts in your absence. And in truth you and the avatar are one because you decide what the avatar character will do.

Jesus is the Avatar of God The Father and so much more.

Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

In other words when you see Jesus you see God the Father, God The Spirit and God the Son embodied. Jesus continues imploring belief by saying;

⁴⁶ **I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.**

COME INTO THE WORLD AS LIGHT

Before God gave me the faith to believe in Jesus I was in such darkness. I tried to find light and life from riches and from various relationships. I tried to find light and life from accumulating cars and money and gadgets. I tried to gain light and life from working my way up the corporate ladder so people who respect me. When people told me I was really something then I would be on the right path. Then I would have life and light.

And then God revealed His Son to me. Jesus the light of the world finally shined a spotlight on my life and lit up the path that He had created for me. It was as if in my life there were street light after street light connecting the new way in which I was called to walk.

WHOEVER BELIEVES EXITS DARKNESS

One of the outcomes of placing our faith in Jesus Christ is to exit the darkness. When we are saved God has done something to us in order to remove the spiritual blindness with which we are all born. And then we cry out to God to save us for forgive our past and give us the new life in Jesus Christ. When we are saved our deepest longing changes. We get our life from Jesus instead of things that never gave us love and life and light.

You see God has called us to do more than repeat the word of the sinner's prayer. He is doing more than creating followers, because followers can follow with an empty heart. What God is wanting to create out of you and I who claim to follow Christ is worshippers.

John 4:23

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

To exit the darkness is to enter into worship in spirit and truth. That is the contrast with darkness. If you want to get rid of the darkness in your life worship God instead of yourself. And worship Him in spirit and truth.

Worship in spirit is a reference to your heart of hearts. When you study scriptures is your heart of heart leaning in toward God saying; “show me your glory oh God!” Show me what I need to see in this passage! Speak to me oh God! Challenge me oh God! Help me to see you clearer and see myself as I truly am! As we sing we lean our hearts toward God and worship we no longer fear or even care about whether someone will think I look funny if I cry or cry out or raise my hand or kneel in front of our holy God as I sing to Him.

And when I worship in truth we are able to set the boundaries of what we give our whole heart to by comparing it all to God’s special revelation found in His Holy Word. His word is what makes it safe for us to give our whole heart to things because we compare what we embrace with God’s word. And if a teaching or form of worship or practice or way of life is acceptable to God then give your whole heart. Worship with determination and emotion. Worship with your mind and body and heart in spirit and truth.

When we worship God in spirit and truth we will walk in the light because we have learned to love God and express and receive the love of God instead of trying to get filled from cheap substitutes that bring darkness.

⁴⁷ If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

I DO NOT JUDGE

Jesus said that He came not to judge those who reject Him but to save the lost. Many people take that to mean that God will go along with any lifestyle they please and He will not be upset in the least because Jesus does not judge.

Here is something important to know. Jesus did not appear in the 1st century to set up court and pronounce judgement of every single sin. He appeared with His amazing grace to give us the spiritual power to start over and leave the old life behind.

Jesus did not come on the Great White Throne to judge the living and the dead. Not the first time He came. And not right now. If you think your life is in the toilet because you sinned and God hates you think again. Think go wrong in your life because of our personal choices or because we live in a war zone in which there are landmines and stray bullets that sometime hit people who are not the worst of sinners.

So know that God is not at war with you. If you feel that way it is a distortion from the devil. God is not at war with you. He loves you. The time of restoration of all you have lost is coming. And may God give sustaining power to you for the things you endure until the end.

God came to offer grace and God The Son still sits on the throne of grace.

1 John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our sins and go to God with our sins in honesty He will forgive our sins and cleanse us in order to start over in the light, not so we can keep abusing His grace.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

How can we confidently draw near to God in our time of need? How can we confidently draw near to God even in our times of failure? Because He is on the throne of grace right now, even today.

He is there for you to approach not so that you can stay in your confess and sin confess and sin cycle but so that you can start over and be transformed into a true worshipper who worships in spirit and truth.

The devil wants you to take a knee. God wants you to come to the throne of grace and get healed and then go spike the football in celebration as you walk free and show the devil that He is defeated in your life.

Go to the throne of grace, don't avoid God. And here is why you must take advantage of the throne of grace. Because there is a day when Jesus will move from the throne of grace into the Great White Throne of Judgment. Come while you can.

THE JUDGEMENT IS THE WORDS OF WARNING

The judgement is the words of warning left by Jesus. There will come a day when it is too late. When the throne of grace is no longer available to us. But thank God that today the throne of grace is open for business. Come and drink deeply from the throne of grace.

Then look at how Jesus closes this chapter. Again, He reminds people that it is God The Father who sent Him. It was God the father who confirmed that Jesus is His Son by speaking from the clouds and backing His Son as Jesus performed dozens if not hundreds of miracles. If He was on His own there would have been no miracles. Who did David Koresh raise from the dead? People that come on their own authority do nothing but bring death and destruct. But Jesus brought truth and life.

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”

HE HAS GIVEN A COMMAND, WHAT TO SAY AND SPEAK

I think we can take great confidence that Jesus is not like some of our leaders today who try to think up poetic sayings and make emotional pleas in order to get us to think their way. Jesus and His words and deeds came from the Trinitarian God. Our culture grows dumber by the day trying to come up with new ways to ignore reality and embrace new and emerging morals and values. Jesus got His stuff directly from the Trinity (of which He is a member). Jesus is the rock and solid ground. And being confident in His person and His works we can walk in the light and worship in spirit and truth. And we can do so passionately because of the certainty found in Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY / CHALLENGE

- ✚ The whole crowd heard the Father speak from heaven just like He did at the baptism of Jesus. This confirmed that Jesus works within the will of The Father and to the glory of The Father.
- ✚ When you see Jesus you see God the Father, God The Spirit and God the Son embodied. Jesus continues imploring belief by saying; “I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”
- ✚ When we are saved God has done something to us in order to remove the spiritual blindness with which we are all born. And then we cry out to

God to save us for forgive our past and give us the new life in Jesus Christ.

TAKING IT HOME

1. What does it mean in your life that Jesus Christ did not come to judge sinners but to save and seek the lost?
2. How does it affect you to know that the grace of God is available so that you do not have to stay the same? You can approach the throne of grace right now in your time of need.
3. What does it look like to give yourself fully to God as you sing to Him or speak with Him or follow the Spirit's guidance?
4. What affect does the warning of Jesus have when He reminds us that He will return and hold us accountable for what we did with the grace He gives us today?