

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

32) The Hour Has Come

'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. But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor'

(John 12:20-26)

- ✓ **These were God-fearing Gentiles who would often attend Jewish feasts. They were allowed in the court of the Gentiles**
- ✓ **Philip and Andrew brought their request to Jesus, who sees it as evidence that His mission has reached its climax and that he is now to die for the world, including Gentiles (John 10:16)**
- ✓ **Satan and the enemies of Jesus thought it was their hour, *'When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness'* (Lk.22:53) *'We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory'* (1 Cor.2:7-8)**

- ✓ **The Son of Man would be glorified in His death.**
'Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night. So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him' (Jn.13:30-31).
He would see His seed and be satisfied
- ✓ **Every seed sown in the ground to produce a harvest is a prediction that the life-giver must die**
- ✓ **The seed principle is also true of us. There is nothing of self we can offer to God. We must die through union with Christ. Even our repentance will not save us. It is Christ alone who can save. We are to be finished with ourselves and see that Christ is now our life**
- ✓ **The first use of 'life' is *psuche* (soul) and the second *zoe* (spiritual life which comes from God)**

***"Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say?
'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this
purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your
name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying,
"I have both glorified it and will glorify it
again." Therefore the people who stood by and
heard it said that it had thundered. Others said,
"An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered
and said, "This voice did not come because of
Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of
this world; now the ruler of this world will be
cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said,
signifying by what death He would die'***

(John 12:27-33)

- ✓ **'troubled' = thrown into confusion. Similar to Gethsemane. 'If there be some other way... nevertheless...'** It all seemed irrational, so He wondered if He should really pray for the cup to be taken from Him
- ✓ **But then He reasoned that this is why He had come into the world. He lived to obey and glorify his Father. So, the matter was resolved. In this way many of our conflicts can be resolved too**
- ✓ **Three times the Father spoke audibly to the Son: at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of His Messianic career. In each case it was in view of His death**

- ✓ **The time for the judgment of the world had come. Everyone's sin would be judged on the cross**
- ✓ **We could define this world in the sense Jesus spoke of as the *kosmos* or culture in opposition to Jesus. This culture has a leader, a ruler of this world – Satan**
- ✓ **The Cross would be the crushing of Satan's head. Satan had been motivated by self-will from the beginning, and this brought death and destruction to all. Jesus was motivated by His Father's will and this brought life to all. In this way the prince of this world was cast out**

'The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them'

(John 12:34-36)

- ✓ **There were several passages that spoke of the endlessness of Messiah's reign: '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' (Isa.9:7). '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' (Dan.7:14)**
- ✓ **So they drew the conclusion, the Messiah cannot die. But they did not understand the two advents of Christ. They were mostly unaware of the passages that spoke of His suffering**

- ✓ **Jesus told them that the light, and the opportunity it brings, will not always be there for them. He urges them to put their trust in Him now. Then they will become children of light**
- ✓ **After this He was hidden from them. The light had been withdrawn**
- ✓ **Jesus through many discourses and signs had been revealed to the people but they rejected Him. John prepared us for this at the beginning of his gospel, Jn.1:11**

'But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him'
(John 12:37-41)

***This is His final appeal to them before the cross**

Those who wilfully harden themselves will be hardened. E.g. Pharaoh. *'But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses' (Ex.9:12).* Yet before this we read, *'But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go' (Ex.8:32).

***Note the order here too. In Jn.12:37 they did not believe; in Jn.12:39 they could not believe**

'Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God'

(John 12:42-43)

Jesus had His secret followers even among the leaders. They were secret *believers*, not secret *disciples

***Secret discipleship is a contradiction of terms. It never works. William Barclay said, 'Either the discipleship kills the secret, or the secrecy kills the discipleship'**

***Jesus had just explained that if anyone served Him, they would receive *honor* from God (John 12:26). Yet there were many who loved the honor that comes from other men more than the praise that comes from God**

'Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, 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 words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak"'

(John 12:44-50)

***John here gives us a resume of Christ's public ministry, mentioning His miracles and teaching**

***Jesus did not come to judge the world, but to receive its judgment**

***Judgment is now based on belief or unbelief in Jesus**

***This brings to a close Jesus' public teaching. In His final days He ministers only to His disciples**