

JOHN #12: John 11 & 12

Jesus: The Resurrection & Life, and the Corn of Wheat”

“Death, Resurrection, & the Final Call”

- I. Backdrop: Jesus just told the Pharisees that their only hope to believe in him was to believe the works that he is doing. Even though they are not his sheep and cannot hear his word or understand the truth he is revealing, if they would just humble themselves and look honestly at the works that the Father gave him to do they could ultimately come to realize and believe that Jesus is the Christ sent by the Father to save the world.
- II. Overview: Jesus receives news that his friend Lazarus is sick, and instead of rushing to his aid, he waits a couple of days until Lazarus dies to go to his hometown. Lazarus’ sisters, Mary and Martha, are both heart broken and wish that Jesus had only been there to heal Lazarus. Jesus reveals that he is the resurrection and the life and then proceeds to go to the grave and raise Lazarus from the dead (who had been dead and buried for four days) in front of everyone. This was Jesus’ biggest and most undeniable miracle up until that point and the Pharisees and chief priests decide at this point that they have to kill Jesus. 5 days before the Passover Jesus rides into Jerusalem for the last time and city goes wild. People start praising him and cutting down branches and crying out “Hosanna, Blessed is the King of Israel!” The multitudes were excited, the Pharisees were angry, but Jesus was focused on something else: his mission to die. Here Jesus gives his 2 final calls to the people of Israel. He calls them to willingly die and follow him. They must walk in the light while the light is with them. And they must believe in him and his Father. Those who reject will be judged by the word that he spoke in the last day.

III. Outline:

John 11: Jesus Raises Lazarus

A. Setting the Tone (11:1-6):

1. Jesus is going to test people’s faith in him and his word.
2. He is going to prove that his words are true.
3. All things can work to the Glory of God (both Father & Son)
4. God’s timing is not our timing and he is not limited by anything.

B. Going Back to Judea (11:7-16):

1. Parable of Day & Night:

- a. Walk in the day and you won't stumble; because you see the "Light of this world";
 - b. If you walk in the night you stumble because there is no light in you.
- 2. Parable of Sleeping and Waking Up:
 - a. Lazarus is "sleeping", Jesus is going to "wake him up".
 - i. Just shows how small the power of death is to the power of resurrection and life in God.
 - b. The disciples think Jesus is joking or something...
 - c. Jesus has to interpret: Lazarus is dead.
- 3. Verse 15:
 - a. Jesus is Spiritual.
 - b. Jesus is "glad" even though his friend is dead
 - i. He sees the big picture and what really matters.
 - ii. He values things so differently than natural people do.
 - c. To the INTENT ——> FAITH!
 - i. Without faith it is impossible to please God!
 - ii. So if someone has to die in order to work real faith in men's hearts than it is worth it to God.
- C. Jesus, Martha, & Mary (11:17-33):
 - 1. Martha:
 - a. Jesus loves her.
 - b. She is a servant and a responder.
 - i. She is instant to act and serve and help.
 - ii. She is observant and aware of others.
 - c. In her mind, all of this could have been avoided if only Jesus was there. This shows both her faith in Jesus AND the limits of her faith.
 - d. She tries to learn the word and listen to Jesus.
 - i. She "knows" many things and is correct about those things. However, those things have not fully matured in her heart and spirit. And so although her knowledge is correct, there are many things that she misses because she does not fully have the correct perspective yet. She doesn't realize that it isn't all about what she knows, but that it is all about WHO she knows.
 - 2. Jesus' Responses:
 - a. Thy brother shall rise again.
 - i. Martha takes this to her scriptural knowledge and states a true fact; but she does not really have the maturity of faith in her heart to hear what Jesus is saying to her for that very day.

- b. I am the resurrection and the life!
 - i. Jesus has to refocus her.
 - ii. The resurrection is not an event first and foremost; the resurrection is a PERSON (first and foremost).
 - iii. Where Christ shows up, there will be a resurrection!
 - iv. The key to being resurrected by Jesus is BELIEVING in HIM.
 - v. A powerful statement and question by Jesus in verse 26!
- 3. Mary:
 - a. Jesus loves Mary.
 - b. Mary is a person who only acts out of desire from the heart.
 - c. She is not a responder or a people pleaser.
 - d. She will do what she feels like doing no matter what anybody else thinks.
 - e. She takes things very seriously and to heart.
 - f. She is an all or nothing kind of person.
 - g. She moves mountains with her passion and heart.
 - h. She, also, like Martha, thinks all of this could have been avoided if only Jesus had been there. However, she is completely broken and hopeless in this situation. She doesn't speak of her knowledge or try to keep things in perspective like Martha does. She just weeps in brokenness because in her mind and heart, Jesus is just too late.

D. Weeping & Resurrection (11:33-46):

- 1. Jesus is troubled, groaning, and even in weeps.
 - a. Jesus allowed himself to be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.
 - b. However, he is not weeping like the Jews are. He knows who he is and what he has been sent to do.
 - c. He is weeping because:
 - i. he hates to see what man has been reduced to and how sin and death have mastered man and brought him to hopelessness.
 - ii. They have almost no faith in Jesus. They don't really get WHO he is (and therefore, limit his power). Their sorrow of death far outweighs their faith and hope in the Lord. This breaks his heart.
- 2. He commands them to an action of faith: Take away the stone...
 - a. Martha proves that she doesn't fully believe her statement from verse 22.

3. Jesus Reproves Martha mildly:
 - a. He points her back to HIS WORD (what he said)!
 - b. He points her back to BELIEVING HIS WORD!
 - c. He points her back to the HOPE of what she can see through faith!
 - d. He points her back to the GLORY OF GOD! (not the death of man)
4. Jesus Prays to his Father:
 - a. He thanks him because he HEARS HIM.
 - b. He confirms that he knows that the Father hears him ALWAYS.
 - c. He prays that the people who are present may BELIEVE that the Father sent him.
5. Calling the Dead to LIFE: "Lazarus, Come forth!"
 - a. Even the dead obey the voice of the Son of God.
6. Command to loose and release:
 - a. Jesus does what only he can do (raises the dead).
 - b. But he calls other disciples to take over from there (loose him and let him go). This is how Jesus gets the body to minister to the body.
7. Many Jews believe in Christ!
8. But some go to the Pharisees to tell on Jesus.

John 12: Jesus' Final Messages to Israel

- A. Intro: Supper at Lazarus' house where Mary pours the costly ointment on Jesus and Judas complains; then the triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the multitudes shouting and praising Jesus and God.
- B. Jesus' Response to the Crowd: Jesus' Hour = Death = Glory (12:23-33)
 1. The Son of Man
 - a. He became the Son of Man to fulfill this very purpose: Heb 2:9-15
 2. Except the corn of wheat die, it abideth alone!
 - a. Jesus was the only Son of God at this point.
 - b. Unless he dies, no one else can be saved.
 - c. He's not dying so that he can be saved, he is the Son of God from heaven and he will go back to heaven.
 - d. He is dying to make the DOOR so that others can enter in.
 3. But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit!
 - a. Hallelujah.... In bringing MANY sons to glory! (Heb 2:10)
 4. Must choose to either LOVE or HATE our life.
 - a. If we love it we'll lose it.
 - b. But if we hate it in this world we'll keep it unto life eternal.

5. If you want to serve Jesus:
 - a. Then follow Jesus first and foremost.
 - b. Wherever Jesus is is where his servants will be.
 - c. The Father will honour you!
 6. Christ's soul was troubled, but what could he pray?
 - a. Father save me from this hour...? Can't pray that, this is the CAUSE why he has come to this hour.
 - b. Father GLORIFY THY NAME! (this is the key to enduring sufferings)
 - c. The Father answers that prayer!!!! (Like Thunder)
 7. Now:
 - a. Is the judgment of this world
 - i. The Jews and Gentiles will come together to crucify Jesus and the disciples and believers and honest people will be helpless against it. Christ's crucifixion is really an indictment against this current evil world as having no hope.
 - b. The prince of this world shall be cast out.
 - i. Very possibly Satan was cast out of the world at the battle at the cross for a few days or possibly a week.
 - ii. This would correlate with the feast of unleavened bread and getting rid of all leaven during that time.
 - iii. This would give the disciples a place of safety from Satan during their time of fear and hopelessness while Jesus was buried.
 8. Christ LIFTED UP will draw ALL MEN to him.
- C. Second Last Call: Light & Darkness (12:34-36)
1. Christ (& his church and gospel) will only be with Israel a little while longer. Their only hope is to:
 - a. WALK in the Light while they have it;
 - b. So that they might BELIEVE in the light;
 - c. So that they might become the CHILDREN of the light.
 2. But if they won't walk in the light:
 - a. Darkness will come upon them.
 - b. Then they will have no hope because darkness blinds.
- D. The Jews, Pharisees, & Chief Rulers (12:37-43):
1. They would not believe on him despite all that he had done.
 - a. This fulfilled the prophecy from Isaiah 53:1
 2. They COULD NOT believe on him!

- a. Their eyes were blinded and their hearts were hardened.
 - b. This fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 6:9-10
- 3. But there were many chief rulers among the people that believed in Jesus but would not confess him openly because:
 - a. They were afraid of the Pharisees putting them out of the synagogue.
 - b. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.
- E. Jesus' Final CALL (12:44-50):
 - 1. Jesus points to the Father:
 - a. If you believe on Jesus you believe on the One who sent him.
 - b. If you see Jesus you are seeing the One who sent him.
 - 2. Jesus came as the Light into the world:
 - a. Whoever BELIEVES on him will NOT ABIDE in darkness.
 - 3. If anyone hears Christ's word and does NOT believe:
 - a. Jesus doesn't judge him (he came to save the world).
 - b. Jesus won't even judge them on the last day.
 - c. The word that Jesus spoke will judge them in the last day.
 - d. For Christ did not speak of himself; he only spoke what the Father sent him and commanded him to speak.
 - 4. The Father's Commandment = Life Everlasting!
 - a. Jesus knows this.
 - b. Therefore, he spoke only what the Father told him to speak.

CONCLUSION: Throughout John, we see Jesus preaching to the lost people of Israel (whether in one-on-one situations, or in public settings with multitudes listening). Jesus says many different things based on the scenario and the crowd. However, in the end, we see that Jesus' message throughout is pretty much the same. He is the One sent from heaven. He is true to the Father that sent him. His words and works are true and are of God. He is not here to bring about earthly, political, or social change or reform. He is here to save men's souls and to bring everlasting life. He keeps pointing people back to himself and his Father. And he keeps hinting at the fact that he will have to die in order for people to come to him and be made free. Jesus is not a revolutionary. Jesus is not creating a movement. Jesus is the Christ from above who has come down to save sinners who are lost and confused in error and darkness. Only those who are willing to follow after a good conscience and after God will come to Jesus. Christ's gospel is centered on HIM and the Father; not on people. But he has come to bring hope to people if they will turn from their sins and unbelief and come to believe in HIM. The message is all about BELIEVING in Jesus: in who he is, what he says, AND trusting & obeying him.