

The Word Became Flesh
Week 37
John 12:27-36 (CSB)
“Can You Hear Me?”

Introduction

After Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He began to speak to the people about what was to occur in the days ahead. The more they heard from Him, the less they wanted to hear. It became obvious to them that He had not come to overthrow the Romans. Instead, He was speaking to them about dying. As soon as they realized that He was not the kind of deliverer that they had hoped for, they began to abandon Him. The very same crowd that had shouted Hosannah when He rode in, would be calling for His execution just a few days hence.

As we have previously discussed, a great number of people say that they want Jesus, but sadly, most of them do not want the Biblical Jesus. They preferred a Jesus of their own making. Instead of following after Him, they want Him to follow after them! This, however, is NOT Christianity. For in order for a person to be saved from God's wrath, they must first confess Jesus as LORD and repent from their sins. It is impossible to follow Christ and long for this world at the same time. Christ made this plain, as He spoke with His disciples, as well as, with the Greek worshippers that came to Him at the temple.

“Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me. Where I am, there my servant also will be. If anyone serves Me, The Father will honor him.”
John 12:24-26

So, in order to have eternal life, we must do as Christ did. He laid down His life to save us. So we too must lay down our lives in order to follow Him. This is not the type of “Christianity” that most people long for. Worldly people are drawn to worldly things, while spiritual people are drawn to spiritual things. The world longs to have all of its wants and wishes fulfilled, but the child of God longs for God's will to be done. Therefore, the prayer of the saint shall always be:

“...Our Father in heaven, Your Name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
Matthew 6:9b-10

To follow Christ is to want what Christ wants. And in order to align our wants with His, we have to let go of what we want. Simple as that. Trust me when I say, there are truly only a handful of people who are willing to live like that. The people in Jerusalem that day were no different. As long as they thought that Jesus was there to do what they wanted, they were more than happy to accept Him. But when He started talking about scorn and sacrifice, they turned on Him.

Even as they began to reject Him, He continued to reach out to them. But they were unable to hear His message. To them it made no sense. He didn't meet their expectations of what The Messiah should be, and therefore, in their own spiritual darkness they could not accept the truth. Had they only studied their Scriptures more carefully, they would have understood that Jesus was not only The Messiah King, but He was perfectly fulfilling His Father's plan to deliver them.

As we continue to look at the exchange between The LORD and the spiritually blinded crowd in Jerusalem, we see the tragedy of unbelief juxtaposed against God's gracious offer of salvation. It is a story of *Death*, *Deafness*, and *Deadlines*.

His Death (vs. 27-28a)

“Now my soul is troubled. What should I say — Father, save me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” **John 12:27-28**

Jesus knew exactly what had awaited Him at the end of that fateful week. None of us can even begin to imagine what He had to endure upon that cross. For it was not merely a tortuous death at the hands of The Roman Empire. No, it was so much more. For you see, *The Bible* tells us that upon that cross **“He became sin FOR us” (2 Corinthians 5:21)**. This means that all the sins of this whole wide world, from the beginning of time until the end, were heaped upon Him at Calvary. Think about all the horrific things that mankind has perpetrated upon itself from the Garden of Eden until now. Wars, murders, strife, sexual immorality, and every other perversion that you can imagine. Now, consider how you would feel if you had to bear the guilt and shame for ALL of that!?

Not only did He bear the sin, He also had to bear The Father’s wrath for all that sin. What a horrific death this must have been for Him Who knew no sin! The pain of all that fury must have been intense. And not only that, He, Who had never known anything but oneness with His heavenly Father, had to endure the painful separation from Him. For in order to become sin for us, He had to pay the penalty that sin brings to us, the total separation from God.

Jesus had always known exactly what lay in store for Him. The weight of it must have been so very difficult to bear. Is it any wonder that the Prophet Isaiah described Him as, **“The Man of suffering?”** And you would think that such a one, Who was willing to carry this burden for His people, would be loved and cherished, but instead, He was despised for it!

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering Who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; He was despised, and we didn’t value Him. Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. **Isaiah 53:3-5**

This was the cup of sorrow that He was born to endure. He had always known exactly how horrific it would be for Him. Is it any wonder that He was filled with a sense of dread? It is easy to understand why He said: **“Now My soul is troubled...”** However, rather than ask God to spare Him from this trial, He embraced it, and He prayed instead:

Father, glorify your name.”

John 12:28

Their Deafness (vs. 28b-31)

Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

Jesus responded, “This voice came, not for me, but for you. Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

This response from heaven was one of three times during Christ’s earthly ministry that God The Father spoke to Him in an audible voice that others could hear. The first time was after the baptism of Jesus (**Matthew 3:16-17**). The second occurred upon the mount of transfiguration (**Matthew 17:5**), and here we see it occurring once more during the passion week of Christ.

Do not miss the spiritual significance of what occurred immediately after God spoke aloud in response to His Son. Jesus heard it. The disciples heard it (at least we know that John did, for he wrote it down). But to those who refused to believe, it was indistinguishable. Some thought it was a natural phenomenon, so they dismissed the sound of God's voice as thunder. Others recognized that it was supernatural, but believed it to be the voice of an angel. But both groups were wrong. God spoke, *audibly*, and they still missed it! How is that even possible?

Well my friends, it happens every single day. When people look around at creation, some say it happened as a result of some natural phenomenon. A random explosion in space was the genesis of all that we see in the universe around us. A second group claims to believe in some kind of creator, but they cannot agree on what he is like. How did they come to these ridiculous conclusions? By ignoring the very Word of God. *The Bible* has been dismissed as foolishness by many, just as those Jews in Jerusalem that day refused to acknowledge that God Himself was speaking aloud to His Only Begotten Son. Their spiritual deafness had prevented them from hearing the words that God spoke! Had they been able to actually "hear" them, they would have turned to Christ for salvation.

Jesus told the crowd that God's audible response to His prayer had been given for their benefit, so that they might believe. And yet, so many of them were unable to discern the Words of God, when He spoke. What a tragedy, for someone to dismiss The Word of God so easily and miss out on salvation as a result. To many, *The Bible* is both unappealing and incomprehensible. And yet, the only way to salvation is found through the truth in God's Word. Sadly, they are unable to truly "hear" the message.

How, then, can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our message?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. Romans 10:14-17

Jesus went on to say that His death and resurrection would serve to usher in the very judgement required in order to cast Satan out of this world. God's plan for His Son, for His atoning death and bodily resurrection, was the only plan that would usher in the Messianic Kingdom that the Jews were hoping for. To reject God's Son is to reject God's plan. And there is no alternative way for fallen man to be redeemed.

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

To refuse to hear the truth is to miss our only hope of deliverance from the wrath of God. And so; **"He that has ears to hear, let Him hear" (Matthew 11:15 NKJV).**

The Father's Deadline (vs.32-36)

As for me, if I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate what kind of death he was about to die.

Then the crowd replied to him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah will remain forever. So how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

Jesus answered. "The Light will be with you only a little longer. Walk while you have the light so that darkness doesn't overtake you. The one who walks in darkness doesn't know where he's going. While you have The Light, believe in The Light so that you may become children of light." Jesus said this, then went away and hid from them. John 12:32-36

Jesus continued by telling the crowd that He must be lifted up (crucified), so that all people would be drawn to Him. He is not speaking here of "universal salvation", but rather, that His death is the only way for lost to come to Him and be forgiven. It is the only means by which the sins of mankind can be atoned. God's holiness demands death for all who have sinned, and Christ took the death that we had earned upon Himself. He paid the price necessary to redeem us.

The Jews, in Jerusalem that day, had no idea what He was talking about. They had done as many today would do. They had hand picked certain verses from *The Bible* that they liked about the coming Messiah and chose to ignore the others. No doubt they were thinking of the **Seventh Chapter of Daniel**, when they argued that the Messiah's kingdom would last forever. To their way of thinking, it would be impossible for the Messiah to die on a cross and have an everlasting kingdom at the same time! But once again, they had only focused upon a portion of the truth. Jesus' first advent was to pay for the sins of man, so that when He returns, there will actually be some people who can inherit that everlasting kingdom! Had he not died first, then no one would have been permitted to enter. For if sin had not been atoned for, then no one would be able to stand in God's presence. Christ died... so there could BE a kingdom!

Jesus gave the people one final warning, to hear and accept the truth before it was too late. There is a day of salvation, when men can believe. But if that day of grace is sinned away, then the darkness of judgment will fall. And when that darkness falls, it will be too late. Do not sin away your day of grace my friends. You do not want the darkness to overtake you, while you are living for the sinful pleasures of this world. ***God has a deadline. Be sure that you don't to miss it.***

While you have The Light, believe in The Light so that you may become children of light." **John 12:36**

Jesus is The Light of The World, and to be in Him is to walk in The Light. Apart from Him, there is only darkness. Allow Him to open your spiritual eyes to see, and your ears to hear this message today. To reject Him is to reject life itself. He died and rose again in order to pay the debt that you could not pay. Hear his Word and be delivered from death unto everlasting life. ***Do not delay. God has a deadline for those who refuse to hear and believe.***

"For He says: At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation."
2 Corinthians 6:2

And let the saved say... TRUTH!!!