

**Slide 1**

# Believe In The Light

## JOHN 12:27-43

### Introduction

1. Last week we read in John 12 about some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem “to worship at the feast” (v. 20).
2. They told Philip that they wished to see Jesus who in turn told Andrew.
3. The two of them went to Jesus to tell Him.
4. Jesus then told them that “the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (v. 23).
5. He then spoke about the necessity of “a grain of wheat” dying in order to bear much fruit (v. 24).
6. Tonight, I would like for us to pick up with the rest of what He says and then focus on John’s comment about people’s reaction to Jesus.

**Slide 2**

## I. The Voice From Heaven

### A. JESUS SPEAKS OF HIS PURPOSE

“Now My soul has become 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.’ ” (John 12:27–28a, NASB95)

1. Jesus soul was troubled because of His impending death.
2. No one wants to die at the age of 33, especially not by means of crucifixion.

3. For Jesus, however, it wasn't just his age, nor the means of his death, but the prospect of being made sin in His death (2 Corinthians 5:21).
4. He knew that He could not ask God to "save" Him from such an hour, because He came to this earth "for this purpose."
5. Instead, He asked that His Father's name might be glorified through His "hour" (arrest, trial & crucifixion).

### Slide 3

## **B. THE FATHER'S RESPONSE**

Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." (John 12:28, NASB95)

1. Prior to this moment the voice of God had come to Jesus at great moments in his life:
  - a. At His baptism when He first began to do the work God had given Him to do (Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22).
  - b. On the Mount of Transfiguration as He was speaking with Moses and Elijah concerning His impending death (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7).
2. Here, once again, the Father speaks to His Son.

## **C. THE CROWD'S RESPONSE**

1. "...the crowd who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered" (v. 29a).
2. "Others were saying, 'An angel has spoken to Him'" (v. 29b).

### Slide 4

## **II. The Coming of Satan's Demise**

### **A. "THIS VOICE HAS NOT COME FOR MY SAKE, BUT FOR YOUR SAKES" (v. 30).**

1. There would come a time when they would look back upon Jesus' crucifixion and understand what God was doing.

**B. "NOW JUDGMENT IS UPON THIS WORLD; NOW THE RULER OF THIS WORLD WILL BE CAST OUT" (v. 31).**

1. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection represents judgment "on this world" — all human society which lives in rebellion against its creator.
2. The callous murder of God's Son is the display of sin in its most spiteful form.
3. This judgment is negative in the sense that there can be no hope for the person who rejects the one person whose sacrifice is God's gracious, saving act for lost mankind.
4. While the cross may seem like Satan's triumph, it is in fact his defeat.
5. Any power he may presently enjoy is curtailed by the Holy Spirit.

**C. "AND I, IF I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL MEN TO MYSELF" (v. 32).**

1. Not only was Jesus about to be lifted up on a cross, but following His resurrection, He would be "lifted up" (i.e., exalted) to glory.
2. Long before this, God had spoken through His prophet, Isaiah, and said, "Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted" (Isaiah 52:13).
3. In Philippians 2:8, Paul wrote of Jesus humbling "Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
4. In verse 9, he added, "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name."
5. The writer of Hebrews said, in Hebrews 1:3, "when He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

6. As a result of this, Jesus would draw men to Himself.

**Slide 5**

### **III. Who Is This Son of Man?**

#### **A. THE CROWD'S RESPONSE**

“The crowd then answered Him, “We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”” (*John 12:34, NASB95*)

1. The people understood the Scriptures of old to promise that the Messiah would remain forever:

“His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” (**Daniel 7:14, NASB95**)

“David My servant will be their prince forever.” (**Ezekiel 37:25, NASB95**)

“There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace.” (**Isaiah 9:7, NASB95**)

“I will establish your seed forever and build up your throne to all generations.” (**Psalms 89:4, NASB95**)

2. The Jews connected the Son of Man with an everlasting kingdom.
3. Jesus, however, was talking about His impending death.

**Slide 6**

#### **B. JESUS' REPLY**

“So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. “While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.” (*John 12:35–36, NASB95*)

1. Jesus did not answer their question.

2. Instead He calls them to, Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes” (John 12:35).
3. In the darkness we encounter . . .
  - a. Fear
    - 1) Fear of what the future may hold.
    - 2) Fear of the changes that may come.
  - b. Doubt
    - 1) Uncertainties
    - 2) We find ourselves groping along with nothing to hold on to.
  - c. Sorrow
    - 1) Sooner or later the sun will set for someone we love.
4. When we walk with Jesus (the Light) . . .
  - a. We are delivered from fear.
  - b. Liberated from doubt.
  - c. Possess a joy which no one may take from us.
5. Jesus’ challenge is that we “believe in the Light” (Him).

## **Conclusion**

1. What will our response be?
2. After Jesus went away, John tells us about two responses toward Jesus:

### **Slide 7**

- a. Irrational Unbelief (v. 37)

“But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.” (John 12:37, NASB95)

- 1) Quote from Isaiah 53:1
- 2) Quote from Isaiah 6:10

**Slide 8**

**b. Belief Diluted By Fear**

“Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.” (John 12:42–43, NASB95)

**Slide 9**

**3. Let us be like those of whom John spoke in his prologue (John 1:12).**

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,” (John 1:12, NASB95)