

The Problem with Belief

John 12:37 Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. 38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” 39 For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: 40 “He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn — and I would heal them.” 41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him. 42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

1. The people did not believe, which _____ prophecy.
2. The people could not believe, because God would not _____ it.
3. Some DID believe but their fear of men caused them to _____ away. (Remember Jesus’ words about “no quitters.”)

The Cry of Jesus

John 12:44 Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. 45 When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. 46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. 47 “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

1. My _____ and I are _____!
2. I am the _____, why would people choose _____?
3. I came to _____ man, not to _____ him.
4. I have only _____ what the Father _____ me to say.

Closing Thoughts:

1. Jesus was about to die but two things _____ His thoughts:
-- Bringing _____ to His _____.
-- Saving people from _____ death
2. Do you have a _____ like the “Greeks” of this story and have a desire to _____ Jesus?
3. Is it your desire that your live _____ your Heavenly Father?

Your Thoughts?

March 16, 2008 - Palm Sunday
My Father, My Son 1 of 4

Dennis R. Miller, pastor
John 12:12-50

The Father’s Glory, The Son’s Grief

The Setting

John 12:12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the King of Israel!” 14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, 15 “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. 17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!” 20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

1. People were there for the _____ (The Passover).
2. Two crowds _____: one with Jesus (v. 17) and one from the _____ Gate. They had heard about _____ miracle.
3. They brought _____ . Why?
4. The Pharisees were _____ themselves.
5. The people shouted _____ things:
-- Hosanna -- _____ Us!
-- He who comes in the _____ of the Lord. (Psalm 118:26)
-- _____ of Israel!
6. Jesus was riding a _____ for two reasons:
-- Because of _____.
Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
-- Because of the _____ - _____!
(The disciples were still “_____.” v. 16)
7. Even _____ were in the crowd!
They wanted to _____ Jesus!

The Words of Jesus to the Gentiles

John 12:23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. 27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!"

1. It is _____! (Jesus usually said His time had not come!)

John 2:4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

John 7:30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.

2. My _____ will produce _____! (The seed illustration)

3. Whoever serves me must follow me _____. (No _____!)

4. I am _____. I want to be _____ from death, and yet I _____.

5. Father, _____ your name! (A prayer we all need to learn.)

The Words of the Father to His Son

John 12:28 . . . Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

I _____ and I _____! What did the Father mean?

John 11:40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

The Father always brings _____ to _____.

John 8:50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.

(People didn't know if this was _____ or an angel speaking)

This was apparently only understood by the believing _____.

John 12:29 The multitude therefore, who stood by and heard it, were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." (NASB)

Jesus Speaks to the Jews

John 12:30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. 31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. 32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

1. My Father spoke to _____ your faith.

But note . . .

2. Now is the time for _____ on this world.

3. Now is the time for _____ defeat.

Heb. 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil —

4. Now is the time for _____!

John 12:32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Crowd is Confused and Speaks to Jesus

John 12:34 The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

This has always been the big _____ for Jewish people: they believed that the Messiah would rule _____. How could Jesus say He would die if He was their Messiah?

Dan. 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

1Cor. 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

Jesus Offers Grace One Final Time

John 12:35 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. 36 Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

1. _____ this moment because darkness is soon coming when you won't have the "son of man" _____ in your presence.

2. Trust _____ in this light so that you can be "_____ of light." (Then Jesus hid from them. Why?)