

As you read...

After raising Lazarus back to life, Jesus triumphantly enters into Jerusalem prior to the Passover festival. The crowds that have gathered have either seen or heard about all the incredible miracles Jesus has performed. After all, how could they ignore things any more now that Lazarus had been raised from the dead?

Many from the crowd have come with expectations. What will He do next? Will He overturn Rome and restore the Kingdom of God? Whatever it is that is on their minds, one thing is clear: they want to see Him and they want to hear from Him.

So, what does Jesus share with them in this moment?

In the passage you are about to read, Jesus is going to predict His crucifixion. As He does so, He will continue to teach about many things we have seen and heard Him teach about so far: life and death, light and dark, belief that leads to eternal life, and the work of the Father that He is carrying out.

There's also another cool part today that I'd like you to look out for as you read. Listen for God's voice in the thunder giving witness to the work that Jesus is completing.

He has raised a man from the dead, performed seven incredible miracles in total, and now a voice from heaven verifies what He has been saying all along. Will the crowds listen closer now in light of all these things He has done? Will *you*?

Read [John 12:20-50](#)

Jesus Predicts His Crucifixion

²⁰ Now some Greeks were among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ So they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested of him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

*²³ Jesus replied to them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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**. ²⁶ 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.*

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

Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

³⁰ Jesus responded, “This voice came, not for me, but for you. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² As for me, if I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate what kind of death he was about to die.

³⁴ 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?”

³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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.

Isaiah’s Prophecies Fulfilled

³⁷ Even though he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet, who said:

Lord, who has believed our message?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

³⁹ This is why they were unable to believe, because Isaiah also said:

***40 He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so that they would not see with their eyes
or understand with their hearts,
and turn,
and I would heal them.***

41 Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke about him.

42 Nevertheless, many did believe in him even among the rulers, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, so that they would not be banned from the synagogue. 43 For they loved human praise more than praise from God.

A Summary of Jesus's Mission

44 Jesus cried out, "The one who believes in me believes not in me, but in him who sent me. 45 And the one who sees me sees him who sent me. 46 I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me would not remain in darkness. 47 If anyone hears my words and doesn't keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and doesn't receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father himself who sent me has given me a command to say everything I have said. 50 I know that his command is

eternal life. So the things that I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

Questions

1. What do you notice about the crowds reaction to Jesus as He speaks. Do they believe Him? Why or why not?
2. As Jesus predicts His death, He says, “The one who loves his life will lost it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” What do you think He means by this?
3. Jesus says to the crowds, “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.”
 - Where in your life do you feel lost and you don’t know where you’re going?
 - What light might Jesus be shining on to those places?

A moment to pray.

Light of the World, shine in the darkness of my life. Give me clarity and direction to see clearly what you would have me do. Lead me to talk with those who would give me wisdom. Help me to love You more than I love my life in this world so that I might have life eternally in You. In Your name. Amen.