

John 12:27-43

Why should we memorize God's Word? Psalm 119:11 ¹¹ *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.* Joshua 1:8 ⁸ *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.* We all need to be brain – washed. Romans 12:2 ² *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Last week's memory verses: John 3:16-17 ¹⁶ *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* ¹⁷ *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

This week's verses: Romans 3:23-24 ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* ²⁴ *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

²⁷ "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.

²⁷ What is the reason to which Jesus is referring? It was the reason of dying for us that the world might be saved, that those Greeks who were seeking Him might have hope (Titus 3:7). Recognizing what must take place did not make it any easier to do. If you think Jesus did not have a hard time with this, think again. He knew what it meant to exchange His righteousness for our sins so much more clearly than we can understand what that entailed. He realized the horror of sin that we often take lightly.

If the Spirit of God has given you a vision of what you are apart from the grace of God (and He only does it when His Spirit is at work), you know there is no criminal who is half so bad in actuality as you know yourself to be in possibility.¹

²⁸ a Father, glorify your name."

^{28a} Jesus didn't come to just show us how to be good. He came to do the Father's will. Last week we talked about how the glory of God was revealed on the cross, His love for us and justice met there.

*^{28b} Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
²⁹ The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."*

^{28b,29} God spoke audibly now for the third time in Jesus' ministry, the baptism (Matthew 3:17), the transfiguration (Matthew 17:5), and now shortly before the arrest and crucifixion. God had glorified His name in the life of Jesus. When we see Jesus' mercy and grace, we see the heart of God and therefore the name of God is glorified. When we see Jesus put evil in its place, we see the heart of God and the name of God is glorified. And at the time of this passage, God was about to glorify His name again in the death and

¹ Chambers, O. (1986). *My utmost for his highest: Selections for the year*. Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering.

resurrection of Jesus. There we see the heart of God so clearly. We see sin meeting its just punishment. We see mercy and grace as we place our sins there (Psalm 85:10). We see faithfulness and righteousness as Jesus walked forth from the tomb. God had indeed glorified His name in the life of Jesus and was about to glorify it again.

³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

30 Jesus had the faith and conviction to know the Father would help Him finish His task (Psalm 22:24). He did not need the assurance of the voice from heaven. We are the ones that benefit from it, those of us who wonder if God will help us through to the end. It was for us who wonder if our lives could possibly glorify God. If you wonder if you will finish strong and bring glory to His name, then it is for your benefit (Philippians 1:6). Will you take it personally?

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

31 Remember John's similar application in the verses that follows his most famous, 3:16. "He who does not believe is condemned already" (John 3:18). This does not mean that they are suffering the agonies of hell and that they will never face a future judgment before the throne of God. It means that their current actions result in a final outcome.

The cross is the dividing line in history. On one side is Satan buffeting God's creation and only a few prophetic words of the hope of God's future intervention. On the other is victorious Jesus whose selfless act has defeated our enemy, freeing us from the fear of Satan's power (Hebrews 2:15), and pouring out His Holy Spirit to indwell all who will come to receive Him (John 14:23).

³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

32,33 Jesus was probably referring to the beginning of one of Isaiah's suffering servant songs. It begins in Isaiah 52:13. ¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. (ESV) It goes on to tell of the brutality of the cross and of a savior who will bear our sins and heal us. *That is clear from the next verse. Isaiah's song concludes with The Righteous One sharing with us the spoils of the victory, pointing to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as a result of His suffering. Jesus draws all but not all will respond (John 1:9).*

Even now It is working. That unfathomable love that is just and righteous, yet merciful and loving. Its cords are going out to you as you hear this. How could God love us to that extent? Why would He want to draw us into fellowship with the holy Trinity? It is so gracious and loving that we tend to guard our hearts against taking it all in. That is because we know it should elicit a response like Mary's in the first part of this chapter.

³⁴ So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

34 It is true. Isaiah said the Messiah would reign on David's throne and over his kingdom forever (Isaiah 9:6,7). But later in Isaiah he wrote of the suffering servant. That is why the crowd wanted Jesus to explain the apparent contradiction. Who is the one who does all this suffering? They wanted the Second Coming to be the first coming.

35 So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

35 Jesus declared Himself to be the Light of the World earlier in His ministry (John 9:5). John saw Him as light coming into the world to illuminate everyone's way (John 1:9). Jesus was saying that His time with them was about up. They needed to open their hearts now and receive what He was teaching them, not try to enter into debates. The God given opportunity was there. Do not ignore the pleadings of God.

36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

36 After Jesus was no longer among them it would be harder to believe. Persecution by the Jewish leaders would cause some to think twice. This was their opportunity to connect with Jesus in a way that we who have lived since just dream about. He hid Himself as the crowds' sentiments were shifting against Him. More teaching would make them even more accountable to God.

37 Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, 38 so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" 39 Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, 40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

37-40 How could anyone do more, and how could they expect more? The words of the prophets were coming to pass. *He was despised and rejected by men* (Isaiah 53:3). There is not an easy answer to the sovereignty of God and the free will of men. The human mind would like three bullet points that makes it all understandable. We do not particularly enjoy a mystery when it comes to theology, but that is what it is. The Word clearly teaches that we are all drawn to Jesus, all illuminated by Jesus, grace enables all, and all are free to decide (John 1:9, 10:9).

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

41 The prophets caught glimpses of what was to come and wondered about the details while wishing they could live in the time their visions would come to pass (1 Peter 1:10-11).

42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

42,43 Secret believers know they are witnessing the truth and yet cling to being accepted by men. The text clearly tells us why. They are more concerned about what man thinks than what God thinks. What a hindrance this love for the praise of man can be!

Our passage began with Jesus' decision to be rejected and murdered to save those Greeks that represent the lost world. What was His motivation? It was to show us God's heart, which is longing to bring us into a relationship with Him, filling us with His Spirit. The passage ends with the world deciding they would not stand up for Jesus and an honest report of their motivation: the praise of man. Our hearts are evil. These are the two

great motivating factors in our world, the glory of God and the glory of self. Which is motivating you? That is light in a dark world. Will you receive it?

Questions:

1 Why is Jesus so troubled?

2 What needs to happen for the salvation of the world?

3 What was Jesus' motivation?

4 How can God's spoken word encourage you?

5 From what passage is verse 32 drawn? Meaning?

6 What motivated the religious leaders?

7 What motivates you?