

49. Jesus Said that the Hour Had Come for Him to Die

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to share about Jesus with all who are willing to hear. We saw that there were many common people and even Gentiles who wanted to get to know more about Jesus at the very time that the religious leaders were plotting to kill Jesus. In our topic today, we are going to see that Jesus said that the time had come for Him to die.

The Jewish religious leaders had not been able to kill Jesus even though they were plotting His death. The time of Jesus' death had been determined before God ever created the earth. Now, John 12:23-26 says, "But Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.'" The members of the Trinity had planned the exact moment that Jesus would die.

Before this, Jesus had said that His hour was future. Jesus told Mary in John 2:4, "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.'" Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:21, "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.'" Then John 7:30 says, "Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come." Then, John 8:20 adds, "These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come." Here, we see that Jesus now says, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified." The time for the death, resurrection and return of Jesus to heaven had arrived.

Jesus went on to illustrate what would be accomplished by Him being glorified. He used as an illustration the planting of a seed of grain. A seed of grain is by itself until it is placed in the ground. Once that grain is placed in the ground, it dies. However, when a seed dies to produce a new plant, it produces a wonderful harvest. Jesus described such a harvest when He said in Mark 4:20, "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." The seed dies but it produces a great harvest. Jesus was going to die and rise again to new life. Here, He said that His death and resurrection was going to produce a great harvest. Every person who becomes a Christian is a part of that harvest.

Jesus also explained the choice that every person would face as a result of the fact that the time of His death had arrived. The person who loves his life in this world will one day lose that life. Mark 8:36-37 says, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" In contrast, those who place their faith in Jesus may lose their life in this world. Jesus told the disciples in John 15:20, "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also." Then, 2 Timothy 3:12 says,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” All true Christians can expect opposition and persecution. However, we can look forward to eternal life.

Jesus said that those who serve Him are to follow Him. In fact, those who make true decisions for Jesus will follow Him and serve Him because true believers are motivated by the love of Christ. Galatians 5:13 says, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” The new life of liberty that we have in Jesus gives us the power to use that liberty to serve one another in love. Jesus said that where He is we will be also. This means that we can look forward to eternal life in the presence of Jesus. We are also promised that all those who serve Jesus will be honored by the Father.

Then, Jesus asked the Father to honor His name. This provided the disciples with an immediate example of the way that all those who serve Jesus will be honored. John 12:27-28 says, ‘Now My soul is 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.’ Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, ‘I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.’” As Jesus thought about the fact that His hour had come, He said that His soul was troubled. Jesus was going to bear our sin and die in our place for our sin so that we could receive His righteousness. 1 Peter. 2:22-24 describes what Jesus did as He bore our sins when those verses say, “‘Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” Jesus was troubled as He prepared to take the wrath of God against sin for us and in our place.

However, Jesus was not going to try and avoid this hour. Instead, Jesus said that this was the purpose why He had come to the earth. Hebrews 10:5-7 says, “Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.’ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’” Jesus came to do the will of the Father by paying the penalty for all mankind. He did this so that we could receive eternal life as a free gift.

Then, Jesus asked the Father to “glorify Your name”. Here, we see that Jesus wanted all glory to go to the Father. This was something that Jesus had said earlier. John 8:29 says, “‘And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.’” The desire of Jesus was to please the Father at all times. We see that the Father spoke from heaven just as He had done two earlier times. In Mark 1:11b, the Father spoke from heaven at the time that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and said, “‘You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” Then, the Father also spoke from heaven at the time that Jesus was transfigured on a mountain in Mark 9:7b when the Father said, “‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’” Here, in John 12:28b, the Father said, “‘I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.’” This time the Father glorified His own name in response to the request of Jesus and promised that He would glorify it again.

Then, John 12:29-33 says, “Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to Him.’ Jesus answered and said, ‘This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.’ This He said, signifying by what death He would die.” The people came to various conclusions about what had just happened. Some thought that they had just heard the thunder. Others thought that an angel had spoken to Jesus. However, Jesus explained that what happened had not been for His personal benefit. Instead, the Father had spoken from heaven for the benefit of the people.

Then, Jesus went on to explain what was going to happen in the next few days. First, Jesus said, “Now is the judgment of this world.” Those who were there that day did not understand what Jesus meant. Jesus was going to bear the sins of the world and satisfy the requirement that sin must be judged. 1 John 2:2 says, “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” The word “propitiation” means *that which satisfies*. The payment of Jesus for sin was sufficient for the sins of every person in the world. That payment was finished when Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished,” in John 19:30.

Second, Jesus said, “Now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” By this, Jesus meant that what was going to happen would cause Satan to be defeated. When Jesus died, Satan thought, “I won.” When Jesus rose from the dead, Satan knew, “I have been defeated.” The Holy Spirit convicts and convinces the unbeliever of three things. The third is listed in John 16:11 where we read, “‘Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.’” Satan knows that He has been judged and that the sentence will soon be carried out when he will experience eternal judgment.

Third, Jesus said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.” Jesus here explained that He would die by crucifixion on the cross. Jesus had told Nicodemus in John 3:14-15, “‘And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.’” Jesus knew exactly how He was going to die. Here, He spoke in advance of that death so that after His death and resurrection, His disciples and others could know that Jesus knew how He would pay for the sins of the world.

Jesus also said that His death would draw all *peoples* to Himself. Revelation 5:9b says, “‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’” We want to help our physical and spiritual children fully understand that Jesus died for people from every tribe and tongue on the earth. We want to help them learn to explain to others that Jesus died for all people so that eternal life is available for all. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand this truth.