

51. Jesus Offered the People the Opportunity to Choose Life

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children come to understand why many people are not yet ready to come to Jesus in repentance and faith even though they have come to recognize that Jesus is God and offers eternal life to all who will come to Him in repentance and faith. In our topic today, we are going to see that just before the time of His sufferings, death and resurrection Jesus gave one final opportunity for people to choose eternal life.

Jesus knew that many of the people who were listening to Him did believe that He was God but were more interested in the praise of men than the praise of God. As a result, that was why Jesus gave a final public invitation before His death and resurrection. John 13:44-46 says, “Then Jesus cried out and said, ‘He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.’” Jesus began this final invitation by making it very clear that those who chose to truly believe in Him did so because they believed in the One that had sent Him.

Jesus began this final invitation by explaining what it meant to believe in Him. Jesus said that those who believed in Him actually believed in the one who sent Him. At several other times, Jesus had said that the Father had sent Him and that He and the Father are One. John 4:34 says, “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’” Then, John 5:37 adds, “‘And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.’” Then, in John 10:30 Jesus said, “I and My Father are one.” As a result, this statement made it clear that to believe the Son is also to believe the Father.

Jesus then said, “He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.” Jesus explained this statement in more detail to the disciples at the Last Supper after Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” John 14:9-11 says, “Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe *Me* for the sake of the works themselves.’” In these verses, we see that Jesus told Philip that since he had seen Jesus, he had also seen the Father.

Then, Jesus explained that He had come into the world to be a light. As a result, all those who believe in Him will not abide in darkness. Jesus had told the Pharisees earlier in John 8:12, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” Because Jesus is the Light, if we walk in fellowship with Him, we will walk in the Light. 1 John 1:5-7 says, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ

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His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Jesus went on to say that those who reject Him will be judged by the Word. John 12:47-48 says, ““And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”” Jesus said that He would not be the judge of those who heard His words and did not believe in Him. Jesus then explained why He had come into the world. We see that Jesus said that He came into the world to save the world. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:17, ““For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”” Jesus had said just a short time earlier on His way to Jerusalem in Luke 19:10, ““For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.””

Jesus was going to make that salvation possible by His payment for the sins of the world. In 1 Peter 2:24, we read, “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.” Then, 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 blood of Jesus was sufficient to pay for the sins of every person in the world. However, each person must personally believe Jesus and receive Him in order to have his or her sins forgiven. John 1:12 says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” Jesus promised to make all who received Him the children of God.

In contrast, we see that Jesus gave a warning to all those who choose to reject Him and do not receive His words. Jesus warned that there is a judgment day coming. Jesus said that He will not be the judge at that day either. Instead, each person will be judged by the words that Jesus has spoken. Those who believe in Jesus and receive Him and His words can have peace as they think of the coming judgment because of the many promises that Jesus gave with His words. One such statement is John 5:24 which says, ““Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”” In this verse, we are given three promises. We have been given eternal life. We will not come into judgment. We have been passed from death into life.

However, the words of Jesus will be the things that will judge at the last day all those who failed to receive the words of Jesus and believe in Him. John 3:18 says, ““He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”” This verse says that those who have not believed are condemned already. Later, Jesus told a larger group of Pharisees in John 8:24, ““Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”” This verse warns of the consequences of the failure to believe His words. All who fail to believe those words will die in their sins.

As a final part of this last invitation to believe before His death, Jesus reminded the people of the source of His authority. John 12:49-50 says, ““For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but

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the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.” Although we know that the Father and Jesus are equal, we see that Jesus again reminded the people that He always spoke under the authority and leadership of the Father.

Jesus said that the Father gave Him a command about what He should speak. The word translated “command” means *that which is prescribed to a person because of the office or position that the person holds*. Jesus showed that He recognized the leadership of the Father in the Trinity. John 10:18 says, “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” Jesus chose to lay down His life by paying the penalty for our sin because Jesus wanted to obey the Father. In this verse, Jesus made it clear that the message that He had spoken throughout His ministry on the earth was in agreement with the will of the Father.

Jesus said that the command that the Father had given Him was everlasting life. Jesus said as He prayed to the Father in John 17:3-4, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” Everything that Jesus spoke was to help people know the love of the Father and Jesus. In John 10:18 Jesus said, “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” The love of Jesus for the Father and for us caused Him to lay down His life by dying to make it possible for us to have everlasting life and to know the love of the Father for us.

Just a day or two later, Jesus gave the disciples and all Christians a commandment to help us also become participants in making that love known to the world. John 13:34-35 says, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Here, we see that we show love by following the example of Jesus and loving one another as He has loved us. In Ephesians 4:15-16 we read, “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Here, we see that we are to show His love by speaking His Word. In that way, we also follow the example of Jesus.

We want to show our physical and spiritual children by our example how to do the will of God by speaking the Word of God to others and showing that love by our actions. As our children hear us speak the Word and show that love, they will also learn to do the same in their lives so that even more will hear how to have everlasting life. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to share the message of everlasting life.