

Jesus' Last Words to the World

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #51)

John 12:44-50

A. In the preceding verses (12:36-43), John shared a few of his reflections

B. Now John shares Jesus' last sermon to the world as a summary of his teaching

JESUS' CRY (12:44-45)

A. Jesus "crying out" gives this passage a sense of urgency

B. Jesus says that believing in him is [actually] believing in God

"No one has seen the Father before, but God the only Son, who is at the very heart of the Father, he has explained God." (John 1:18)

C. Ultimately, everyone has to make a decision about who Jesus is

1. If Jesus is just a rabbi who talks about God, you don't have to believe in him

2. But if Jesus is the absolute reflection of God then we better pay attention

JESUS' LIGHT (12:46)

A. Light attracts attention

B. Light is designed to guide us to our destination

"You are going to have the light just a little longer, walk while you have the light..."
(John 12:35)

C. Light dispels darkness; light always overpowers darkness

D. Light will ultimately conquer death

"God reveals the deep things of darkness and brings deep shadows into the light"
(Job 12:22)

JESUS' GRACE (12:47)

A. It may have appeared Jesus has been judging people all along

1. Jesus now says he wasn't judging anyone as much as he was warning them

2. Jesus says his purpose was to save, not judge

B. Yet many people still think of God as a monster

1. God is your Father; he is your Friend

2. Jesus says so; and Jesus knows him best

JESUS' TRUTH (12:48)

A. On that last day, people will be reminded of the opportunities they had to hear Jesus' Words and embrace them

B. On that last day, Jesus' initial Words of grace and warning will become Words of judgment and condemnation

C. Jesus "begs" his listeners: Don't wait to listen to me until the last day

1. Today it is a gracious Word of grace and warning

2. On the last day, it will be a condemning Word of Judgment

JESUS' WORD (12:49-50)

A. Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh! (12:49)

1. Again, Jesus wants us to know that when we are listening to his Words, we are listening to the very words of God

2. In studying Jesus' Words we are studying the very Words of our immortal, invisible Creator God

B. Jesus' Word is the Father's Command (12:50a)

1. What God commands to be said is as important as anything that can be said

2. In the very words of Jesus, we find Life in its most enduring way!

"I know that his commandment is life everlasting!" (Augustine)

3. If the Son's Words bring eternal life, and the Father's Command brings eternal life, then the Father's Command brings deep, lasting life

C. In Jesus' words we have God's Words (12:50b)

1. Jesus has now made the same claim in numerous ways, numerous times

2. In Jesus' Words, now faithfully recorded by John, we have nothing less awesome than the very personal Word of the God of the universe

D. Jesus is our lighthouse. It is up to you,...