

# Jesus's Last Evangelistic Message

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John 12:32-50

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When our LORD came, he came fulfilling the PROPHETIC OFFICE. He was a preacher.

- Matthew 4:17 – [17] *from that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*
- He preached until the VERY END.

We shouldn't be SURPRISED by this... God creates by HIS WORD.

- And God said. “Let there be light,” and there was light.
- Jesus Himself is called the Word of God (logos of God).
- John 1:1 – [1] *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*

THIS SECTION in JOHN's GOSPEL is the LAST PUBLIC APPEAL to the MASSES of JUDAISM.

- But as foretold by the PROPHETS, the MESSAGE is REJECTED.
- Matt 23:37 – [37] *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*
- What was the NATURE of HIS message? Why was it Rejected?

## The Cross

JESUS's MESSAGE centered on his DEATH. John 12:32 – [32] *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”*

- The WAY He will do that is by being HOISTED UP on the CROSS.
  - “Lifting up” is synonymous with crucifixion. (*upso*) It means to hoist up into the AIR.
  - Jesus uses the SAME WORD in John 3:14 – [14] *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.’*
- Christ will draw the NATIONS to HIMSELF.
  - John 12:24 – [24] *Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

John adds this comment: [33] *He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.*

- The disciples and the crowd understood what Jesus was saying.
- The PROBLEM is that they DON'T BELIEVE JESUS needs to be CRUCIFIED.

The CROWD is PERPLEXED.

John 12:34 – [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?”*

- The RABBIS had TAUGHT that once the MESSIAH came he would RULE forever.
- The Psalms say, Psalm 89:4 – [4] *‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’*

- Psalm 89:34 – [34] *I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips.*
- Psalm 89:35 – [35] *Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.*
- Psalm 89:36 – [36] *His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me.*
- Psalm 89:37 – [37] *Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies.*
- THEIR EXPECTATION of CHRIST’S reign Was REVELATION 21 and 22 IMMEDIATELY.

They don’t understand the MESSAGE of Isaiah 53. They don’t understand the MESSAGE of the SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM.

- That all of it was pointing FORWARD to what the MESSIAH would do.
- You would have a HUMAN PASSOVER LAMB. Hebrews 9:12 – [12] *he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*
- But HE ATONED for SIN, He ascended into HEAVEN to rule at the RIGHT hand of the FATHER.
- 1 Corinthians 15:25 – [25] *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*
- The MESSIAH’S KINGDOM was established, it just wasn’t established the way they expected.

### The Urgency

[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.*

The PICTURE is of going on a JOURNEY at the end of the day and the Sun is going down.

We know and have SEEN that JESUS claimed to be the LIGHT.

- John 8:12 – [12] *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”*
- John 9:5 [5] *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
- John 1:4 – [4] *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*
- John 1:5 – [5] *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
  - LIGHT – ALMOST always stands for KNOWLEDGE.
  - JESUS IS THE SOURCE of all SPIRITUAL INSIGHT.
  - ETHICAL TRUTH. The KNOWLEDGE of GOD.

Jesus says... you only have “*little*” time (*mikros/micron*). Literally less than a week.

- Come to ME NOW while there is STILL TIME.

*Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.*

- When the NIGHT comes. It’s JUDGMENT. It’s too LATE.
- You reject the TRUTH NOW, you will be overtaken by the DARKNESS.
  - *Katalambano* – overtake. Same word in John 1:5 – [5] *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*“The One who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.”*

- Ephesians 4:18 – [18] *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*

[36] *While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.*"

- LOOK to CHRIST as the LIGHT. The SOURCE of TRUTH. TRUTH HIM in FAITH.
- You become SONS of LIGHT.
- A SON resembles his FATHER.
  - You have the "mind of Christ." (1 Cor 2:16)
  - You "live by the Spirit" (Gal 5:25)
  - You understand spiritual truth. Psalm 119:105 – [105] *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

[36b] *When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.*

- The PUBLIC will not appear again until JESUS is standing before Pontius Pilate.
- He will speak to His disciples in the UPPER ROOM. But these are the FINAL STATEMENTS.

### The Rejection

This is SPOKEN by JOHN. How do you RATIONALIZE the REJECTION of the MESSAGE.

[37] *Though he had so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,*

#### a) Prophecy

The UNBELIEF is actually PROOF that JESUS is indeed the MESSIAH.

[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?" (Is. 53:1)*

In answer to the RHETORICAL QUESTION... "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us?"  
Where are they to be found? The answer is 'NO ONE.'

- John 6:66 – [66] *After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.*

#### b) Removal of Grace

It was GOD's DIVINE will that they NOT BELIEVE. As part of GOD's judgment for Israel's lack of BELIEF, he decreed that they would undergo a hardening.

[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."*

All that GOD has to do in order to blind your eyes and harden your heart is lift is HAND from your LIFE. You are ALREADY BLIND. Already HARDENED.

- Their eyes were blind to his signs. Their hearts were hardened to his message.
- God blinds eyes and hardens hearts by withdrawing GRACE.
- God is not under any OBLIGATION to EXTEND MERCY and GRACE.

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

- The VISION of the GLORY of CHRIST that Isaiah saw in his vision. Isaiah 6. Is the pre-incarnate CHRIST.

- Even though many did NOT see his GLORY, His glory is there.

c) Selfishness

[42] *Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they 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.*

They have some type of FAITH in JESUS, but they are AFRAID of the AUTHORITIES. Are these people SAVED?

- Luke 12:8 – [8] *“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, [9] but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*
- Romans 10:9 – [9] *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- Some don’t believe, because they refuse to believe the truth intellectually.
- Some believe the truth intellectually but they don’t love Christ in the heart.
- John 5:44 – [44] *How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?*

The Message

The apostle John summarizes what JESUS has said throughout His public ministry. Nothing novel is stated. It is entirely repetition of statements Jesus has made in the past.

a) Exclusivity

[44] *And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.*

- Jesus Christ is the ONLY SENT ONE.
- He is the connection to GOD. (John 1:51; 3:16; 5:17; 5:43)
- You believe in GOD’s PLAN of SALVATION.
- John 5:23 – [23b] *Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.*

b) Epiphany

[45] *And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.*

- We can GAZE at CHRIST, the full reflection of God. (John 1:18; 8:19:10:38)
- 2 Cor 3:18 – [18] *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*

c) Enlightenment

[46] *I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.*

- Christ came that you may become sons of light (1:9; 8:12; 9:5; and 12:35, 36)
- That you would be “called out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” (1 Pet 2:9)
- John 8:31 – [31] *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

d) Judgment

[47] *If anyone hears my words and does not 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 does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*

- On JESUS's FIRST coming, he came to SAVE. But at his second coming he is coming in judgment.
- Those who heard Jesus's words will be rejected on the last day for what they did with Jesus's words. (John 3:17; 5:24, 45-47; 8:15, 16, 31; )
- What you believe about CHRIST has everything to do with your future.
- John 5:24 – [24] *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

e) **Revelation**

[49] *For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.*

[50] *And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”*

- Jesus spoke the REVELATION that the FATHER sent Him to give. (John 3:11; 7:17; 8:26, 28, 38)
- Jesus will tell the DISCIPLES that the HOLY SPIRIT will lead them into all truth.