

Lord, Who Has Believed Our Report? John 12:27–43

Dr. John Niemelä Grace Chapel www.mol316.com November 30, 2008

INTRODUCTION

NEW EXPOSITION:

(12:27) Although Jesus is troubled (over the cross) He does not ask the Father to deliver Him from the cross, because He came to earth for this hour (in order to die)

As a side note: Jesus' Gethesemane prayers were not for Him to *bypass* the hour, but for the hour to *pass quickly* & He would drink the cup of judgment. E.g. *Let this cup pass [quickly] from Me.*

(12:28) [Rather than praying for deliverance] He prays for the Father to glorify (the Father's) name: The Father says that He has glorified it and will glorify it again

Jesus' consistent desire to glorify the Father

When did the Father glorify His name before?

When will He glorify it again?

(12:29–30) When some spoke of thunder or an angel speaking, Jesus said that the voice was for their benefit

How would it benefit them, if they did not understand it?

Cf. 2:22

12:16

15:20

16:4

16:21–22

(12:31) [The time of Christ's glorification] involves defeating the world's present ruler (Satan)

(12:32–33) Lifting Jesus will draw all to Himself, Jesus said—with regard to the cross

(12:34) People objected that the Old Testament says that the Messiah will remain forever, so they ask Jesus to identify this Son of Man (whom they do not view as the Messiah)

Isaiah 9⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Psalms 72¹⁷ His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed.

Psalms 89³⁵ Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: ³⁶ His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; ³⁷ It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky." Selah

Daniel 7¹³ I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Jesus = the Messiah (the Christ) = the Son of Man

Jesus died before rising again. He remains forever.

(12:35) Jesus told them to believe in Him before He, the light, goes away, because they will be in the dark and will lack guidance

1:4–9

3:19–21

8:12

9:5

11:9–10

12:46

(12:36) Jesus urged them to believe in Him, the light, so that they would be enlightened and regenerate (sons of light); then He disappeared

(12:37–38) Jesus did so many signs before them, yet they disbelieved, fulfilling Isaiah 53:1: By and large they disbelieved and rejected the Lord's revelation

Isaiah 53

Isaiah 53 and the context of John 12

(12:39–40) The reason they could not believe because [the truth of] God blinded them

What Reformed people say about this passage (which quotes Isaiah 6)

A response to those who are Reformed

A consideration of Isaiah 6

(12:41) Isaiah spoke of Israel's blindness when he saw Christ's glory and spoke of Him

(12:42–43) Even among the rulers many came to believe who did not confess Jesus as the Christ, because they (who loved men’s praise) feared Pharasaic banishment from the synagogue

Nicodemus is **not** one of these who refused to confess Jesus

John 3

John 7

John 19

CONCLUSION

Jesus did not pray for deliverance from the hour, but that the Father would glorify His name; which the Father said He had done and would do; thus the hour of Satan’s judgment and Christ being lifted up (on the cross) before the world to draw them to Himself was about to occur; some said that He could not be talking as the Christ, because the Christ lives forever; to which Jesus urged them to believe in Him while they still had opportunity; despite Jesus’ signs, the blind rejection of the Lord’s message (Isaiah 53 and Isaiah 6) applied to the majority of the rulers, but a significant minority did believe in Christ, but did not confess Him, because they feared banishment from the synagogue

REVIEW:

J-Baptist testified of Christ, so all might believe; the few of His own who believed would all be God's children 1:1-18
1st Disciples 1:19-51: John the Baptist pointed all to Christ, so some of John's disciples followed & believed 1st Sign Apostle John Witnessed 2:1-11: JC turned H ₂ O to wine (first Galilean sign), disciples believed Judean Passover 2:13-3:36: Signs lead many (inc. Nic.) to believe in JC; said cross/resurrection = sign that He = Christ Samaritess: 4:1-26: He offered Samaritess living H ₂ O, who asked if He were the Christ when He told her about herself Ministry in Sychar: 4:27-42: She drew men to see JC & food-distracted 12 join in reaping harvest; many believed In Galilee 4:43-45: He went to Galilee, because no prophet is hometown celebrity; they welcome Him after seeing signs Heal Official's Son: 4:46-54: Official urged JC to heal son; He (& servants) said, "Son lives;" He & house believed
Heal Lame Man: 5:1-15: On Sabbath JC told lame man to walk. Officials scolded & sought to confront healer Heal Lame Man: 5:16-23: Judeans seek to kill JC as blaspheming sabbath-breaker, He imitates Father to do greater works. Honor Father by Honoring Son: 5:24-30: Wants foes to live (if believing); will be condemned (if disbelieve) 2+ Witnesses: 5:31-47: JC, impartial GWT Judge, isn't accuser nor is J-Baptist, so works, Father, Bible & Moses accuse Bread of Life: JC asked where to buy food for crowd; prayed & broke bread; they were satisfied & called Him <i>Prophet</i> Walking on H₂O: 6:15-21: JC went up mount; 12 left by boat w/o Him; gale arose, JC walked on sea & entered boat JC = Bread of Life: 6:22-40: He told men (who found Him) to labor for food for EL & said God persuades that He is Father-sent heavenly bread, that gives the world life & secures bels forever (because He obeys the Father) Grumbling over Bread of Life: 6:41-59: JC said to stop grumbling, because, Living Bread gives life for world, but only gives EL to those drawn thru teaching, but they argued over what eating His flesh meant, so He said that (only if they eat/drink His flesh/blood) would they have EL & Christ would indwell, so life-giving Bread differs from lifeless manna Grumbling over Bread of Life: 6:60-71: JC asked offended disciples how ascension would affect them & warned of lifeless leaders' words, but HS gives life thru word; & said some don't believe, which is why (apart from being granted thru the Father teaching) people can't believe JC; as many left, He asked 12 if they want to go, but Peter said JC has words of EL (that they believe) & JC said He chose them, even Judas Surprise Appearance at Booths: 7:1-36: Unbel brothers say to make show in Judea to get disciples, but His time not yet come. Some said He would skip feast, but His authoritative teaching glorifying Father amazed them (reaffirming right to heal on Sabbath)—some said no arrest because they knew He is Christ), & leaders tried an arrest He Who Tabernacled w/ Us at Booths: 7:37-8:1: JC urged to drink of (believe) Him, so they (when HS came) would have living H ₂ O abundantly (fulfilling Booths): Division resulted; Nic' scolds rulers for bypassing legal inquiry Light of World Gives Adulteress Justice: 8:2-13: Phars ask JC if (per Law) should stone woman they brought; JC wrote on floor; said sinless one "Cast 1st stone;" accusers left; He taught crowd [& woman] that He is Light of world (unlike Pharisees); His followers walk in Light of life
Truth Will Free You: 8:14-32: JC's testimony is valid, because Father = 2nd witness; Pharisees don't know Father try to arrest Him; He will go where they can't; they will die if don't believe; they demand to know who He is; He affirms that He always said Father sent Him; but lifting Him (on cross) will show Father sent Him & abides w/ Him; many Judeans believed, so He said abide to be disciples--free from [legalistic] bondage
Abraham's Seed & Satan's Seed: 8:33-59: [Pharisees] retort that they aren't slaves, but JC said only He can free from sin; their desire to kill Him came from their father; they would love & believe Him if they were God's children, but they reject Him w/o disproving Him; they scoff when He said bels won't see death & Abe rejoiced to see His day
Healing Man Born Blind: 9:1-41: Sin didn't blind one born-blind, but blindness let God heal him, man wash in Siloam & saw; people debate if he is same man, He said he is & he sees, but didn't know where JC was; told Phars how he sees; some said Sabbath breaker not of God, others deny sinner could heal, man said He = Prophet; parents testify that he, their son, was born blind; Phars know he was blind; parents (in fear) said ask of-age son; they oathed him & he didn't counter as they call JC <i>sinner</i> ; but said he now sees; they repeat query, he said they ignore him & don't want to follow Him; they claim to follow Moses; they don't know JC's origin, the only healer of born-blind, but God doesn't use sinners, so He is of God; they called him born in sin & banned him; JC asked if he believes in God's Son; after saying He = God's Son, he believed & worshipped; He came so blind may see, sighted may be blind; Pharis scoff at being blind; he called them culpable because call selves sighted
Good Shepherd: 10:1-21: Leaders misunderstand Good Shepherd, whom gateman lets into pen (vs. sneaky rustlers); sheep follow Him, not coercive strangers; so He retold it: He is entryway; earlier shepherds bully, steal & kill sheep, but He even dies for sheep (vs. hirelings who let wolves steal/scatter); He knows sheep/they know Him, as He knows God who knows Him—He dies for sheep & has other (non-Judean) sheep who hear Him who makes 1-flock/1-shepherd; God loves Him, because (for sheep) He dies to be raised (no one takes His life), but He lays it down to take it up—as God commands; some called Him crazy demoniac; others denied His speech was demoniac & demon can't make blind see
At Hannukah: 10:22-39: Judeans demand if He is the Christ; He said they disbelieve His words, but works in Father's name also testify; they disbelieve because not of His sheep; Shepherd guarantees sheep (bels) EL & can't lose it, because Father & Son (in union) secure them; He asked (as they try stoning) which good work led to seeking His death; said they seek His death for making self God; He said God (ψ 82 ⁶) calls (wicked judges) gods; Bible is always true; so Father-sent One doesn't blaspheme in calling self God's Son; if He didn't do Father's works, they should disbelieve, but Father's works lead to believing His words (2nd witness) that Father & Son are united; they again seek His death, but He escaped
Lazarus' death: 10:40-11:16: In Batanea rec'd word that Lazarus was sick & said the sickness is not unto death, but will glorify God; when (2 days later) He planned to go to Lazarus, 12 said Judeans sought His death; He said it is still day (time for Him to live) & He needed to wake Lazarus (from death) & it is good He was not there, so they would believe
Resurrection & Life: 11:17-37: JC came 4 days after Lazarus' burial; many mourners present; Martha hurried to meet Him; Mary stayed home; Martha said JC would have stopped Lazarus' death, if He were there; God answers His prayers; He said Lazarus will rise; she agreed; He said that He is resurrector & grantor of EL; asked if she believed; she affirmed this, because she believes He is Christ, God's Son, whom [God sent] to earth; she said that JC wants to see her, Mary went quickly to Him; some said she went to tomb & followed; Mary worshipped Jesus & said He would have stopped Lazarus' death, if He were there; crying of Mary & others moved JC w/ empathy, so He asked where they put Lazarus; they said <i>Come & see</i> ; JC also wept, so some said He greatly loved Lazarus; others asked why He let Lazarus die (since He healed blind man)
Raising Lazarus: 11:38-57: He said to open tomb; Martha mentioned the stench; He reminded about God's glory, if she believed He'd raise Lazarus; they opened it; He thanked God for always hearing Him (saying this) so they might believe that He sent Him; He told Lazarus, <i>Come out</i> ; he did so while bound, so He said to free him; many believed; others told Pharisees (who met w/ Sadducees) to stop Him, because popular belief might make Rome take their position & nation; Caiaphas urged that He die for nation (prophecying His death would give Jewish bels life & gather them in one flock); Sanhedrin killing Him; He stayed w/ 12 at Ephraim; earlybirds to feast said He'd avoid feast, because of APB
Anointing & Entry: 12:1-19: At Bethany a meal was fixed for Jesus, Lazarus & others; Martha served; when Mary anointed His feet, Judas feigned concern for the poor & scolded her, but Jesus defended her; pilgrims came to Jesus & Lazarus because He raised him; officials sought Lazarus' death also, He rode donkey to Jerusalem, throngs hearing Lazarus was raised laid palm fronds before Him, leaders sought His death.
Helenized (Jews) at Passover 12:20-26: some asked to meet Jesus; He told Philip & Andrew that the hour of His glorification had come: One seed dies in earth that many seeds may sprout to life; loving the mortal life has detrimental effects on the immortal life; hating the mortal life enhances the immortal life; the Father will glorify servants who follow Jesus (where He goes)