

Light In The Darkness
“No Other Name”

John 12:27-50

Jesus Christ is the only Savior the world has. There is no other way one can know divine forgiveness except through Jesus Christ. This is the core message in the gospel according to Jesus.

In the closing verses of John 12, the apostle helps us to understand what it is about Jesus that qualifies Him to be the Savior. There are six things for us to know as we close out the public ministry of Jesus in John’s gospel.

Jesus is uniquely qualified to be the Messiah because of:

His fixed determination to endure the cross. (John 12:27)

Jesus knew what lie before Him — the arrest, the beating, the mocking, the nails, the crown of thorns, and the ultimate shame and suffering of the cross. But He was fixed with a compassionate determination to see it done. (cf. **Luke 22:39-44**)

His consistent ability to glorify the Father through His obedience to the Father’s plan of redemption. (John 12:28-30)

The glorifying of the Father was accomplished in the obedience of the Son. God the Father is always glorified when His people do His will. His will is found in the Scripture. When we obey the Word, we glorify the Father.

The Father’s reply was to strengthen the faith of all the believers standing there. R. C. H. Lenski comments: “...**this miraculous reply was for the disciples, that they might hear directly with their own ears both that the Father had, indeed, answered Jesus and what that answer was. It was another attestation of the Father, of the clearest and strongest kind, that Jesus was his well-beloved Son.**” (R.C. H. Lenski, “The Commentary of the New Testament, John”)

His work to fulfill the promise of redemption. (John 12:31-33)

Anticipating the triumph of the cross, Jesus rejoiced in three significant victories that would occur as a result. First, His death would bring judgment on the world. When a person refuses to believe in Christ, they are instead accepting judgment for themselves. Second, Satan himself was defeated — utterly and totally defeated by the death of Christ on the cross. Third, countless people — both Jew and Gentile — will accept Christ as a result of His work on the cross. The “...**lifting up...**” of Jesus is not only that He was lifted up to be crucified, but also in that work He is exalted forever. (cf. **Philippians 2:1-11**)

His responses to those who refuse to believe in Him. (John 12:34-36)

We have seen throughout the gospel of John the verbal responses unbelievers have given Jesus. Some were not as harsh as others, but they were nevertheless a reply of unbelief. So Jesus basically gives them another opportunity to receive Him as Messiah. Even in the last few days of His ministry, on His way to the cross, He was still inviting sinners to repent. Their question, “...**Who is this Son of Man?**” indicates that after all the signs Jesus performed and all the things that He taught them, they did not believe in Him.

His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies that predicted the Jewish rejection of the Messiah. (John 12:37-43)

John gives us somewhat of an epilogue to the rest of his gospel. In fact, the gospel does make a significant shift away from the public ministry of Christ to the unbelieving world, toward the private ministry of Jesus to His followers.

There was a superficial, non-committed, hidden belief attitude toward Jesus (**vv.42-43**). This was not good enough for John, and he wants us to know a different belief. This true belief brings with it the birthright of the children of God (**1:12**) and is the belief that shows in a public and irrevocable commitment to Jesus. It is acknowledged by the Messiah ***“...I know My own and My own know Me...” (John 10:14b)***

His compassion for sinners to receive Him as the only Savior and Messiah. (John 12:44-50)

Jesus had already withdrawn from the crowds (**v.36**). The tragic climax of the Lord’s public ministry to Israel ends in a national rejection and an intentional refusal to believe in Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah.

Jesus solemn warnings ***“...I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.” (John 8:21)*** and ***“For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (Matthew 23:39)*** are about to be realized. The Lord of all creation, Jesus the Son of God had concluded His public ministry. Now the hour has come to pay for sin on the cross.

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Application Questions

What does this passage teach you about the purpose of God in Christ?

How do you respond to the intention and purpose of Jesus for you?

How will this truth change your perspective on your life and God’s purpose for you?

Upcoming Events

Beach Sunset Fellowship for TCT Ladies. Saturday, June 29. Details to come.

TCT Anniversary Lunch Celebration. Sunday, August 4. Details to come.