

## The Father Sends the Son on a Mission of Life

### John 12:44-50

**John 12:44-50** <sup>44</sup> And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. <sup>45</sup> "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. <sup>46</sup> "I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup> "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. <sup>49</sup> "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

The last time we were together we saw Jesus speaking to the crowds in the context of him acknowledging his upcoming death as he is about to fulfill the Scriptures concerning himself and the work that the Father sent him into this world to accomplish.

<sup>NAU</sup> **John 6:38** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

And what was the will of the Father?

**John 6:39-40** <sup>39</sup> "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

The Father has given a people to the Son, but those people must be purchased as their penalty is paid in full. And that comes through the atoning death of Jesus Christ that our Lord explained to the crowds.

**John 12:32-33** <sup>32</sup> "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." <sup>33</sup> But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

And yet this crowd composed mainly of Jews were not interested in what Jesus had to say, despite the fact that his entire ministry was demonstrated with power.

**John 12:37** <sup>37</sup> But though He had performed so many signs before them, *yet* they were not believing in Him.

As we come to the end of chapter 12 our Lord Jesus will confront these unbelieving people once again with the truth of who he is and what he came to accomplish, as God is about to fulfill that promise that all that the Father gives him will come to

him. But they will come by the faith that God supplies in the very work Jesus will do on their behalf.

**John 12:44-46** <sup>44</sup> And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. <sup>45</sup> "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. <sup>46</sup> "I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

Verse 44 contains an interesting phrase in that it gives us some insight into the mindset of Jesus at this point in his ministry, knowing that his time is now at hand.

And Jesus cried out.... The word cried in the Greek could literally be translated, screamed or shouted.

<sup>NET</sup> **John 12:44** But Jesus shouted out, "The one who believes in me does not believe in me, but in the one who sent me,

Jesus was always pointing back to the One who sent him on his mission. But when he shouts out that the one who believes in me does not believe in me, but in the one who sent me, what is he actually saying?

Remember, Jesus is the Son of God incarnate, which is to say, that he is the eternal Son who took on flesh and makes up the Godhead of the one true God. There is only one God. In fact, Jews of every generation have prayed that prayer called the Shema that contains the very verse in Deuteronomy that speaks to the oneness of God.

<sup>NAU</sup> **Deuteronomy 6:4** "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

When confronted by one of the Scribes of Israel, who demanded of Jesus, "what commandment is the foremost of all"? our Lord prefaced his answer with part of the Shema.

**Mark 12:29-31** <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; <sup>30</sup> AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' <sup>31</sup> "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

And so, when Jesus says in our text, that the one who believes in me does not believe in me, but in the one who sent me, he saying that He is the God who is described in Scripture as Jehovah. Jesus would express it the same way earlier in the gospel of John.

**John 10:27-30** <sup>27</sup> "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> "I and the Father are one."

Jesus is not saying that the Father is the Son or that the Son is the Father. Rather, he is expressing the truth of the Hebrew saying referred to as the Shema, "the Lord is our God, the Lord is one. That is, he is one God who has revealed himself in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We see all three in the same place at the same time as distinct persons in the baptism of Jesus.

**Matthew 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup> After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

The Son of God is being baptized, the Spirit of God is descending on our Lord Jesus and the Father audibly acknowledges the Son as one in whom He is well pleased.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all one in essence and power. All three persons make up the one true God. Back to our text.

**John 12:46** <sup>46</sup> "I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

This truth takes us back to the very beginning of this gospel where Jesus, the Word, is described as Creator and God who is the light.

**John 1:1-5** <sup>NAU</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. <sup>5</sup> The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Jesus was sent on a mission by the Father to redeem a people given to him by the Father. So, when Jesus says that he has come as Light into the world, he is obviously coming from somewhere to fulfill his mission. John the Baptist references where Jesus comes from.

**John 3:31** <sup>31</sup> "He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

When describing our Lord's upcoming atoning death for his people he makes this very sober and stark statement to many Jews who were doubting his claims as the Messiah.

**John 8:23-24** <sup>23</sup> And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

Jesus Christ is the light in this world. That is not to say that the natural man can see the light in the deadness of his sin. Rather, the natural man continues to walk after

the darkness, not because the light has not come into the world, but because the natural man's primary preference is to be content with the darkness.

**John 3:19-20** <sup>19</sup> "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

And so, when Jesus commands men to repent of their sin and embrace the Messiah sent from the Father, it must be understood that the natural man who loves the darkness rather than the light must have a supernatural work of God to open their eyes to see the light, what Jesus identifies as being born from above or born again.

At this new birth the message of the cross can be understood as the natural man is now made a spiritual man by the regenerating work of the Spirit of God.

**Titus 3:5-7** <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

Those who have eyes to see and ears to hear by the Spirit of God can now respond to the command of Jesus. But the natural man continues to walk in the darkness and is characterized as one who does not hear the word of God in a saving way.

**John 12:47-48** <sup>47</sup> "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

There is a day of judgment coming. I know that many don't like to address such things as they deem them negative and not uplifting. The truth is that the good news of Jesus Christ is so good precisely because the bad news is so bad.

**Romans 2:5-6** <sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

The wrath of God on unrepentant sinners is no joke. There will be a final day of reckoning before a holy God. The wages of sin is death. That's the bad news. The good news for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear is that they do not have to pay their own debt and suffer God's wrath, but can trust in the One sent from the Father to pay their debt in full.

**John 1:12-13** <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Being a child of God through faith in the Son of God brings peace with God and the assurance that we cannot be condemned because Christ has taken our condemnation and nailed to the cross.

**Romans 8:1-2** <sup>NAU</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

As we wrap up the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the gospel of John we have these words given to us by the Son of God himself.

**John 12:49 - 13:1** <sup>49</sup> "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

Again, we come back to the truth that the Father has sent the Son of God on a mission. That mission was explained earlier by Jesus in this same gospel.

**John 6:35-40** <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. <sup>36</sup> "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Jesus is about to go to the cross and he is reflecting on this mission that was given to him by the Father. He has been speaking of this mission since the beginning of his ministry right after his baptism by John the Baptist where our Lord subsequently went into the desert for 40 days where he was tempted by Satan.

The first words Matthew records for us after this incident are these from our Lord to the crowds of Jews.

**Matthew 4:17** <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The Kingdom of heaven is that Kingdom of God over which Jesus is King. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is this kingdom that is given to those who are adopted into the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ. This is the kingdom that Jesus is addressing at the end of chapter 12.

**John 12:49** the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak.

You'll notice how Jesus speaks of this mission given to him by the Father as that which is commanded by the Father to the Son to speak to the world. This was not a request by the Father, but a command or as it could also be translated an order.

The Father ordered the Son to go and gather the people whom the Father has given to the Son. But the Son did not do this out of compulsion, but out of love for the Father as he and the Father and the Holy Spirit had decreed together in eternity past to enact this redemptive plan as they all sought to redeem a people for the glory of God.

**John 8:28-29** <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. <sup>29</sup> "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

It pleased the Son of God to come into this world to die on the cross for the penalty of sin that you and I deserved to pay for. It pleased him to do all things that the Father sent him into this world to accomplish.

<sup>NAU</sup> **John 4:34** Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

<sup>NAU</sup> **John 6:38** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

When Peter addressed the crowds on the day of Pentecost, only days after the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, he recounted the mission that the Son of man accomplished on behalf of the Father. He put it this way.

**Acts 2:22-24** <sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- <sup>23</sup> this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. <sup>24</sup> "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

The eternal redemptive plan of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit was not something that took God by surprise that he subsequently put into place after Adam's rebellion which introduced sin and the curse of sin into this world, which is death. Peter makes it clear in Acts 2: 23 that Jesus was delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God.

This same Peter who addressed the crowds on the day of Pentecost is the same Peter who wrote his first epistle or letter to the churches scattered across the Gentile world with these words.

**1 Peter 1:17-21** <sup>17</sup> If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*; <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like

silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ. <sup>20</sup> For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

This is what salvation is all about for the believer. It is a new life in Christ. It is eternal life. And this is how Jesus ends this section of Scripture back in our text.

**John 12:49-50** the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

The commandment or order that the Father gave to a willing Son was the commandment to go and gather his elect as he gives them eternal life. And Jesus took this order to heart as he not only declared this message from the Father, "repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand", but he accomplished that eternal life as he gave his life at the cross.

**Philippians 2:8-11** <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So, what do we do with this command? If you don't have the assurance of eternal life because you have not repented of your sin and turned to the only one who can forgive you of your sin, then let me invite you to do that now. Just humbly come before God and repentantly ask for his forgiveness as you place your trust and faith in the one who said, I am the way and the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me.

If you are a child of God as you have placed your faith in the One who gave his life as a ransom for many, then take these words to heart regarding what the will of God is for your life today, and for the rest of your travels on this earth.

We all have wondered from time to time, God, what is your will for my life? Here's the short answer.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification;

It is this verse that is the premise for my ministry called, Grow Up in Christ.com. It is my desire to help God's children grow and mature in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Only as we are mature believers who are not tossed here and there by every wind of doctrine can we truly grow up in our faith.

Our sanctification is another way of saying our ability to be conformed to the image of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:29-30** <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

It is God's desire to not only grow you up in Christ but to give you the ability to do so as he has prepared you from eternity to walk in all his ways.

**Ephesians 2:10** <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

And how does God accomplish this in our lives? How does he enable us to be conformed into the image of Christ as we are sanctified on a daily basis? Jesus gives us the answer as he prayed to the Father on our behalf.

**John 17:13-17** <sup>13</sup> "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. <sup>14</sup> "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. <sup>16</sup> "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

If we are not in the word of God, then our sanctification is being stunted. There is no sanctification outside of God's word, the bible. May we have the same attitude that Peter expresses in his first epistle.

<sup>NAS</sup> **1 Peter 2:2** like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

Salvation, eternal life, is what God the Father commanded His son to come into this world to accomplish for His people. If you are a child of God through faith in Christ then you join the host of heaven in declaring his greatness out of thankfulness for so great a gift. I'll end with these words.

**Hebrews 12:1-2** <sup>NAU</sup> Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.