

“Walk while you have the Light”

John 12:30-36

30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. 31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. 34 The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" 35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

Notice how Jesus begins to describe the events of this hour. He says “now”. He says it twice. He is emphasizing something. He wants everyone to know what He will accomplish now with His death, and in the glory to follow.

Luke 24:25-26

And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

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John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.

Jesus describes four things here:

- /1. The judgment of this world.\
- /2. The casting out of the ruler of this world.\
- /3. Jesus being lifted up from the earth.\
- /4. Jesus drawing all men to Himself.\

John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world;

This is the day of judgment for this world. What is this world?

/“This world” is the sphere of operations for fallen mankind as it lives in hostility to God, doing the works of satan and the flesh.\

Eph 2:1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

/This world had its day of reckoning when Christ died on the cross.\

So that, later, Paul could say

Gal 6:14

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

/Jesus was victorious over the forces of this world the day He died on the cross.\

That's why every believer in Christ has also overcome the world.

1 John 5:4-6

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood.

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/The world still exists, but it was judged once and for all at the cross.\

John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

NOW – the decisive hour when Christ went to the cross – the ruler of this world - the devil was cast out. For all time.

/Here, “cast out” means being stripped of power and authority.\

Heb 2:14-15

14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

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/There was a momentous transfer of power and authority from satan to Christ.\

Col 2:13-15

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

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/Christ conquered the angelic forces of evil.\

The Father disarmed them. They still exist, but they have been declawed.

/We can resist them by putting on the armor of God , forged at Calvary.\

Eph 6:10-13

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

/As Christ is, so also is every believer in Christ:\

John 17:14-15

14 "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. 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

/As a result, now every believer in Christ has overcome the evil one.

1 John 2:12-14

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

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

What did Jesus mean by “I am lifted up from the earth”? Verse 33 clarifies that He was indicating the kind of death by which He was to die. He would be crucified.

*John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men to Myself.**"*
/He died on the cross for all human beings: Gentile as well as Jew.\

Acts 26:22-23

22 "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

The time came for the Son of Man to be glorified in His death and resurrection.

/At the cross, the world system was judged.\

/ At the cross, the ruler of this world was cast out. \

/The sacrifice of Christ on the cross was for all people, both Jew and Gentile.\

/Now is the time of decision for all men and women. \

John 12:35 So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. 36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

/Darkness is a symbol of judgment (including the things worthy of judgment, and the penalty that issues from judgment). \

Matt 8:10-12

10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 "I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; 12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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/The centurion believed in Christ. But the sons of the kingdom – the nation of Israel - rejected Him.\ The verdict? Cast them out into the outer darkness.

Luke 23:44-45

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 because the sun was obscured;

When Jesus was bearing the sins of the world at Calvary, there was complete darkness. Why? /It was a time of judgment.\

The Father judged sin in the flesh. In our passage in John 12 this morning, the cross was also the place of judgment for the world and satan, the ruler of this world.

/God has done His mighty work through the blood of His Son.\ He has removed every impediment that had stood between Him and the entire human race.

/All are free to come to the Light, both Jew and Gentile.\

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Anyone who hears the message of the gospel and believes it has eternal life, and will never come into judgment. / But what about those who refuse to believe? \

John 3:18-21

18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "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. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

/Now, people remain in the darkness because they have chosen to do so.\ They choose to reject the Light of Christ. They prefer the darkness to the Light.

Jesus issued this grave warning to the crowd of Jews who had assembled for the Passover. But by and large they did not heed that warning.

John 12:36 "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

This morning, you too have been warned.

/Jesus is in heaven now. Here on earth, the light is the gospel of the glory of Christ (2Co 4:4).\

If you have not believed in the good news of the death and resurrection of Christ, now is the acceptable time to do so. You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow.

Heb 9:27

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,
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Once you die, it will be too late. Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved!

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Rom 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2 Cor 4:3-6

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Eph 1:13

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

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James 4:13-14

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Isa 40:6-8

voice says, "Call out."

Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,

When the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

Surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.

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