

“The Father who sent Me”

John 12:42-50

42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

44 And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. 46 "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. 47 "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. 48 "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. 49 "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. 50 "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

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We are now approaching the big divide of the gospel of John. Chapters 2-12 document the public ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. We travelled with Him as He visited the towns of Galilee, performing miracles at places like Cana and the shores of the western side of the Sea of Galilee. We were with Him when He journeyed to Jerusalem for the different feasts. We listened to His preaching and the things He said about Himself and His Father.

But now that phase of His life now ends. When chapter 13 starts, Jesus will be in a private place with just His closest disciples. He will no longer be preaching to the crowds; rather, He will be teaching the twelve about what is to come.

/The rest of chapter 12, from verses 37-50, provides a summation of that public ministry.\ There are two parts.

/In the first part, verses 37-43, John reflects on the tragic mystery of Jewish unbelief: the widespread rejection of Jesus by the nation of Israel.\

/In the second part, verses 44-50, Jesus gives a succinct summary of the teaching He had given concerning His own identify as the one who had been sent by His Father.\

Today, we will read the last things John had to say on the subject of Jewish unbelief.

He gives the flip side: those who did believe. Yet even here, he ends on a note of disappointment. Let's begin.

John 12:42-43

42 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

Many even of the rulers believed in Him. Who were these rulers? It's not clear. John does not further identify them. He distinguishes them from the Pharisees.

These rulers believed in Jesus. This probably means that they believed He was the Christ, the Messiah, and that on the basis of His miracles.

/But they didn't have the courage of their convictions.\ They feared being put out of the synagogue, with the loss of status, shame, and separation from the community.

Underneath it all, they craved the approval of men. /They cared more about what people thought about them than what God thought about them.\

So they kept their faith in Him hidden. /They were secret believers.\ Are you? Have you kept your faith in Christ hidden from your neighbors, or your fellow workers, or family members? If so, what are you afraid of exactly? You are missing out on a great deal of blessings that come from a life of openly proclaiming Jesus.

1 Thess 2:1-4

For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, 2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. 3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

So now we are ready for the last paragraph of chapter 12 of the gospel of John.

John 12:44 And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. NASU

It's so important that we take to heart what Jesus is saying in these two verses.

/For one thing, He is testifying to the fact that He is God.\ It's akin to what He said back in chapter 10.

John 10:29-30

29 "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. 30 "I and the Father are one."

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The deity of Christ is demonstrated many times in the gospel of John.

When you see Jesus, you are looking at the Father. When you believe in Jesus, you are believing in the Father who sent Him.

/The deity of Christ is an essential part of the gospel message.\

In chapter 12, Jesus focuses on the Father as the One who sent the Son.

The Father takes the lead in the plan of salvation. The Son proceeds from the Father. /He submits to the will of the Father.\

John 6:38

38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

/The Son of God is obedient to the Father in all things. \

Phil 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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/Again and again in John's gospel, Jesus says "The Father sent Me". \

John 7:16

So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

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John 8:42

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

/In the gospel of John, Jesus reveals **His relationship** with His Father as no other.\

Jesus calls God “Father” 100 times in the gospel of John. That compares to 46 in the other three combined.

So what is the relationship between Jesus and His Father?

/It’s not complicated, really. It’s all bound up in what it means to be the perfect father and the perfect son.\

Fathers and sons share in so much. They are of the same nature. Father bear and baby bear – they’re both bears.

/Fathers and sons share life together.\

A good father and a good son have an intimate relationship. They have a great love for each other. Yet father and son are individuals, each with his own personality.

But there is another aspect to a father and a son.

/The father has authority over his son. He directs the activities of his son.\

The father exercises his will, and the good son does the will of his father. The father sends the son to represent him.

/In other words, the son is the subordinate to his father. \

The father lives and acts in his son, and the son carries out his father's will and purpose in loving, joyful submission.

/God the Father and God the Son are distinct people, but share the same divine nature or essence.\

The gospel of John weaves together these two features of the relationship between the Son and the Father.

/First, the Father and the Son are one in nature – their essential being. They share in everything that has to do with being God.\

John 10:30

"I and the Father are one."

/Second, their relationship is ordered. The Father is the head of the Son. The Son is subordinate to the Father. He submits to the authority of His Father.\

John 14:28

28 "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

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/They are one, and yet they are distinct. They are one in nature, yet distinct with respect to how they operate. \

There is both unity and order in this amazing relationship between the Father and the Son.

/There is an order to their relationship.\

John 3:17

17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

/The Father sends the Son. The Son does not send the Father.\

The Father chooses the mission – not the Son.

John 3:34-35

34 "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. 35 "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.

/The Son obeys the Father and depends on Him. The Father does not submit to the Son. The Father is not dependent on the Son.\

/It all works perfectly because of the love they have for each other.\

/The Father loves the Son.\

John 17:24

24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

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/The Son loves the Father.\

John 14:31

but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

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