



Chapter 12 – Part 2

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- Jesus foretells His death
- Jesus calls believers to FOLLOW HIM, and take up their own cross.

Salvation is free, but, it will cost you everything.

- **It cost God the sacrifice of His Son's life**
- **Jesus must be Lord of your life**
- **You must surrender all, deny your selfishness and follow Him, even unto death.**
- **James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"**

John 12:23

Jesus Foretells Crucifixion

- ²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, “**The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.**”
- **The Greeks (Gentiles)** of v.20-21 **trigger Jesus’ announcement of the “hour”**. This is a whole new God- believing group of Gentiles.
- Up until this point the “hour” was future, but now it “has come”.
- The “**HOUR**” = the appointed time for Jesus’ death, resurrection and exaltation, or in short, His **GLORIFICATION**. (shame followed by glory - ransom)
- “**Son of Man**” title – most commonly used in connection with Jesus’ sufferings or coming in Glory.

John 12:24

Jesus Foretells Crucifixion

24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

- Jesus' death is depicted as a kernel of wheat, sown in the ground to bring forth a rich harvest. His death will result in the salvation of many.
- This same truth is illustrated in the Bread of Life (6:35-59) and in John 11:49-52 where He says that He is the one who dies so the people may survive.
- This image of seed dying in order to produce fruit is also expressed in several parables – **1 Cor. 15:36-38; Mark 4:3-9; 26-29; 31-32; Matt. 13:24-30;**
“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”

John 12:24

Suffering before the Glory

- Image of kernel dying being first applied to Jesus' death, then to His disciples (v.24), parallels the Synoptics announcement of Jesus' death immediately followed by the disciple's responsibility to **“take up your cross”** and follow Jesus (Mark 8).
- The principle of the seed dying being necessary for life, while is applicable to Jesus, it is also applicable to all of His followers. Same passage used in Mark 8
- Movement of thought in this passage goes from Jesus' fruitful death, to the inevitable death of Jesus' followers as the necessary condition of their own eternal life.

John 12:24

Persecution – History of the Church

- **John 15:18-20** ¹⁸ “**If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me** before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ **Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.**
- **Matthew 5:10-12** “**Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven... Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven”**
- After Jesus died – 12 Apostles & 500 believers, 11 of the 12 Apostles were martyred.
- Within 100 years, the number of Christians grew from 250,000 to 6 million (10% of the population). Romans killed countless #'s.
- Over 70 million Christian martyrs in history, 20 million in 20th century alone by **Hitler, Russian and China.**

Persecution & Tribulation

Supplementary Teachings

- A full class which is essential for all Christians to watch is the entire class dedicated to this topic by Crossroadoftruth.org in the End Times Series.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdrngRXTJYE&feature=youtu.be>
- NOTES: from Persecution & Tribulation Class
 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ce606228f647a00015de8b3/t/5ec364e017177e372eee9624/1589863653569/Prophecy+-+Class+5+-+Persecution+%26+Tribulation.pdf>

John 12:25

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

• **25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

- If you love your life now (in this evil world of rebellion, death and judgement), you will lose eternal life. For to love one's life is an evaluation of SELF to an idolatrous focus on self, which is at the heart of all sin (pride)
- The person who “**hates his life**” (hate reflects **preference/comparison, not hatred on an absolute scale**) is the person who denies themselves and takes up their cross daily. This person declines to make themselves the focus, humbles themselves to God's will, and dies to Christ.
- **Mark 8:34-38; 1 Peter 2:21; Luke 14:25-28**

People Who Counted the Cost & Paid the Price of Following Jesus

- Abraham (was going to sacrifice Isaac)
- Moses (left the comforts of Egypt)
- Joseph (denied the Potiphar's wife temptation)
- Daniel (went to the lions den to avoid denying God)
- The Apostles & Early Church Fathers (Martyred)
- 70 MILLION Christians throughout history – a soldier must suffer hardship
- Take up Your Cross – Deny Self – and Follow Jesus
- **Question:** When are you closest to God's mercy and glory...in times of great suffering or in times great personal pleasure?
- **First comes the SUFFERING...Then comes the GLORY** (of God)

COUNT THE COST – Luke 14:25

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydiacfJJBmw&list=PLcJVlUhl8isJOKcvkIMhwj7Gv5769FqEJ&index=38>

Examples of Counting the Cost of Following Jesus

- Have you separated yourself from the world? From:
 - Worldly Pleasures (Casinos, bars, certain TV shows, music, books, etc.)
 - Worldly Alliances (Secret societies, self-help groups, marriage/relationships/friends)
- When you suffer trials and suffering, are you still willing to follow?
- Are you willing to make Jesus Christ Lord of your life...and obey and worship Him?
- Do you make time for Jesus and His Word? (Time in the Word & Prayer)
- Are you overly concerned with impressing others? (or impressing God)
- Do you spend a lot of time thinking and talking about money and material things rather than eternal things? (your treasure is where your heart is – Matthew 6:21)
- Are you putting your TIME, TALENTS, \$ towards God? Have you surrendered all?
- **In this current age of societal division over politics (Satan's deception - really it is about spiritual issues), are you prepared to disassociate from friends and family if necessary – Luke 14:26 ““If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”**
- Are you prepared to die for Jesus in order to not deny Him?

Count the Cost

You will have 2 natures, at war with each other (Romans 7 & 8)

- **“Deny yourself”**
 - You (one self, the denying self, the true you, empowered by the Holy Spirit)
 - must deny Yourself (the other self – The Lier, the Fool...who thinks that 80 years of human approval and pleasures of this world are better than 80 million years in the presence of God)
- **“Take up your cross, and follow Me”**
 - a path of opposition, shame, suffering and death. **In order to do this, we must deny the self that hates opposition, shame, suffering, & death and who loves honour, praise, money, safety and pleasure.**
- ³⁵ For whoever desires to save his life (in this earthly world by avoiding the cross) will lose it (Eternal Life - this is terrible), but whoever loses his life (Earthly) for My sake and the gospel’s will save it (Eternally).

(Mark 8:34 – 38)

What Does it Mean to “Follow Jesus”

DENY SELF:

- Our problem is in idolizing self.
- Denying yourself is the **opposite of selfishness** – **denying temptations, pride and helping others.**
- Evil comes from the heart (self). (Mark 7:14-23)
- Disciples thought they would be “great”, but learned **“If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last.”** (Mark 9:35)
- We need to **Humble ourselves** –obey Jesus’ commands even if it requires **sacrifice.**

(Mark 8:34 – 38)

What Does it Mean to “Follow Jesus”

TAKE UP YOUR Cross:

- **We must ready and willing to DIE**
- The short-term cost of following a Christ is to face a hostile “generation”, in which most will save their lives now by being ashamed to publicly separate themselves of the world and proclaim the gospel of Jesus and the Cross.
- **The combination of accepting both Jesus and His Word/Gospel is very important.** Peter just found out that accepting Jesus, but not accepting His Word, particularly about the Cross is not good enough to “Follow” Jesus.
- The message of the Cross is difficult – it means following humbly through rejection, even to martyrdom is necessary. The phrase **“be ashamed” suggests that we must accept it publicly and not just in private.**

Mark 8:34-38 – THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Count the Cost

POWER OF POSSESSIONS

Mark 8:36

- **36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world (praise of men, material goods), and loses his own soul?**
 - The world tells you that having things is having life. Jesus says, no, having Me is Life, things will bring death.
 - The pleasures of this world (“saving your earthly life” or self ambition) will cost you your soul, and your soul cannot be bought for any earthly price.

Mark 8:34-38 – THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Count the Cost

POWER OF APPROVAL & PRAISE - Mark 8:38

- **38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”**
 - The **self** in us that **craves approval**, is loving the approval of “adulterers and sinners” (shameful).
 - Ashamed – means you don’t want to be identified with Jesus for fear of looking like a foolish Christian in front of sinners & adulterers.
 - Matt. 10: 32 **“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”**
(Great Commission)

“Follow Me”

The Calling → Discipleship ↔ Apostleship ↔

Salvation

- Repent
- Believe/Trust
- Forgiveness
- Born Again
- Holy Spirit Indwelling

Daily Communication

- Read the Bible
- Pray
- Praise
- Worship
- Fellowship

Lifestyle

- Faith/Trust
- Deny Yourself
- Love God & Your Neighbor
- Obey Jesus
- Humility
- Compassion
- Serving Others
- Resist Sin
- Forgive others

Telling Others

- Proclaim the Gospel to Others
- Share Your Testimony
- Never be Ashamed of Jesus and His Words (Mark 8:38)

What it Means to Follow Jesus & Be a Fisher of Men (Mark 1:17; 8:34)

John 12:26-32

God Speaks – Voice from Heaven

- V.26 – If we “**Follow**” Jesus – to death of self – we will be with Him.
- V.27 – “**My soul is troubled...Father save me.**” – analogous to Gethsemane’s “Take this cup from Me” (Mark 14:36). In both cases, as soon as He asks to be spared from this hour, He shows unwavering obedience to His Father’s will, to “**glorify Your name.**”
- V.27–Jesus states that “**for this purpose I came**” (Cross)
- V.28-30– An audible **VOICE** from Heaven – one of only 3 instances of God speaking (**Baptism & Transfiguration**)
- **VOICE** indicates this is a turning point in redemptive history. A supernatural confirmation of the importance of the sequence of events to follow, triggered by the arrival of the Gentiles.

John 12:31-32

Judgement – Satan – Eschatology

- V.31 – “**Now is the judgement of this world**” – Judgement is not only reserved for the “end of the age” for the “last judgement”, but begins with the first coming of Christ – “**NOW**” (**John 3:17-18, 36**)
- The world thought it was passing judgement on Christ, but He was in reality passing judgement on them.
- Rejection of Jesus, God’s sacrifice to give life to “seeds”, is rejection of God Himself (5:23). The Cross/glorification signifies both positive and negative judgement.
- “**the ruler of this world will be cast out.**” – The Cross represents Satan’s defeat. Analogous to **Rev. 12:11**. Satan is restrained by the Holy Spirit (John 16:11)

John 12:31-32

Satan is Defeated by the CROSS (BLOOD)

John 12:31

- “**the ruler of this world will be cast out.**”
- The Cross represents Satan’s defeat. Satan is restrained by the Holy Spirit (John 16:11)

SATAN

Rev. 12:11

- “And **they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

John 16:11

- “of judgement, because the **ruler of this world is judged.**”

John 12:32-38

Lifted up = Glorification

- Jesus is not only physically lifted up on the Cross, He is “lifted up” and exalted to glory in Heaven.
- **Isaiah 52:13; Phil 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16; Heb 1:3; 1 Cor. 2:2**
- Christianity is about who Jesus is (God) and His work to save us from our sins by His sacrificial blood on the Cross, which would otherwise damn us eternally in hell.
- V.32 – all people will be drawn to Him – Greeks and Gentiles alike – The Hour has come. The veil will be torn.
- V.33-34 – people thought the Messiah would reign forever and were confused – Davidic Covenant - **2 Sam 7:12-13; Is. 9:7; Ezek 37:25; Ps. 72:17**
- Light/Darkness contrast – darkness is inevitable if you reject the Light. Climax is reached and Jesus departs.

John 12:37-43

Theology of Unbelief

- Deut. 29:3-4 (Like Moses said to the Israelites)
- **V.37** – indicates there is human responsibility and v.43 reveals the **human motive for unbelief**

FEAR OF MEN

- Unbelief was not only predicted in scripture, but necessitated by scripture (12:39). This is a judicial hardening by God Himself.
- **3 things to Consider when God hardens hearts**
 1. God's Sovereignty – doesn't depend on human responsibility.
 2. It's a holy condemnation of a guilty people.
 3. Sovereign hardening in Moses's day, Isaiah's day and Jesus' day brings God's ultimate redemptive process to pass.

John 9:39; 12:39-40

Spiritual Blindness

- Throughout the whole Bible, blindness is used metaphorically to represent the human condition of fallenness, spiritual ignorance and the inability to comprehend God and divine truth. Isaiah 43:8, 56:10; Jer. 5:21
- **God came to give sight to the Blind:** [John 9:39](#); Acts 26:18; Eph 4:18

3 Kinds of Blindness

1. **Natural Blindness** – Adamic nature of the unsaved man – 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor 4: 3-4; Psalm 82:5; John 3:19; 8:12
2. **Satan's Double Dose of Blindness** – to those trying to see the light - 2 Cor. 4:4
3. **God's Blindness as a Judgement** to those who persistently reject the Light – [John 12: 39-40](#); Isaiah 44:18; Mark 4:12, 25 (Is. 6:9-10)

John 12:44-50

Summary Promise & Threat

The End of Jesus' Public Ministry

- **Emphasizes that everything Jesus has taught is from God Himself**
- Causes urgency on the reflection of the claims of Christ.
- Stresses that faith in Jesus is more than just faith in an agent of God, but in the Word incarnate, the God/man, or it is not faith at all.
- V.45 – **he who sees Jesus, sees GOD Himself.**
- **Threat of Judgement** – v. 47 & v.48 - same as John 3:36
- **The same message that proclaims life and forgiveness to the believer, proclaims condemnation, judgement and wrath to the unbeliever, and this judgement to the world is happening now (12:31).**

John 3:18-21

The Results of Unbelief

- CONDEMNATION (v.18)
 - WRATH OF GOD (v.36)
 - PERISH or HELL (v.16)
-

- ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he who does not believe is condemned already,**
- ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and **he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**

John 3:18-21

The Results of Unbelief - **CONDEMNATION**

- The final sentencing for those who reject Christ is in the future. But they are condemned already, just like eternal life is both now and in the future, so is condemnation.
- **Light & Darkness analogy for judgement – when people willingly reject the Light (Truth) when it's exposed to them, it's because they love the Darkness & their sin, because they don't want their evil deeds exposed.** They don't want to repent, and do not hate their sin, but love their sin.
- **Believers hate their sin and love and hunger for righteousness.**