

# The Word Saves<sup>i</sup>

Restoration of Faith Bible Study Notes

Friday 15 July 2022

## Introduction/Background

Tonight we are going to talk about 2 different topics together, Belief and Judgment.

### Lesson Context

As a quick recap, the first week we talked about the topic “Rest in the Lord”. Then right before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday we were in John chapters 7-8 with the topic “Freedom in the Lord”, where Jesus was on a fall camping trip celebrating the Festival of Booths/Festival of Tabernacles/Sukkot where the Jews remembered and celebrated their freedom from slavery in Egypt. This week we are going to go a few months forward into the spring near Passover and a few chapters forward into John chapter 12.

What we skipped past in the book of John was the end of chapter 8 where Jesus says “*Before Abraham was, I AM*” and the religious Jews trying to stone him for blasphemy and claiming to be the I AM or claiming to be God. Jesus escaped to the wilderness and then he escapes another stoning in John chapters 9-10. Then in John chapter 11-12 Jesus raises Lazarus of Bethany from the dead, Jesus is anointed with perfume by Lazarus’ sister Mary, and then He tops it all off with His Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. All of this caused a real stir among the Jewish religious leaders, aka the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and it caused them to activate a plot to kill both Lazarus and Jesus. So I put before you that we see both those who are in belief, and also we see these Jewish religious leaders who had already judged Jesus in their own way and stand in judgment and unbelief. Now tonight we are in John chapter 12 and it is now the last week of Jesus’ life before he would go to the cross.

## Standing before the Judge

### [Read John 12:27-33]

In my Bible this section is titled Jesus Predicts His Death on the Cross. The first thing I want to point out is in verses 27-28 which sounds a lot like the statement that Jesus made in the Garden of Gethsemane. Not my will but your will be done. In verses 28-29 in the crowd that was with Jesus, I love the way John notes about the differences that some people heard the audible voice, some heard thunder (Greek 1027 Bronten means physical thunder), and some said that they had either seen or heard an angel speaking to Jesus. Jesus tells them that the voice of God was for their benefit, not His benefit. Why? Because Jesus could already clearly hear the voice of his Father God. It is us who have the listening problem. In verse 31 Jesus says, "Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out."

**Question 1:** In verse 29 why do you think that different people heard God speak differently?

## Belief and Unbelief

### [Read John 12:37-43]

In my Bible this section is titled Belief and Unbelief among the Jews. The first thing I want to point out is in verse 37. After seeing so many signs and miracles that Jesus had done, healings, deliverances, feeding of the thousands, the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead... Why do you think that so many of them still would not believe? John references back to Isaiah 53:1 & Isaiah 6:10 saying that this fulfills prophecy. Verses 42-43 say that there were some among those ruling Jews who did believe in Him, but they had to keep it a secret out of fear from their brothers. Two Biblical examples of these would be Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, they were both part of the ruling Jewish class.

**Question 2:** What drives your belief in Jesus? If you had seen Jesus, who seemed to be against everything you thought were taught was right, doing miracles and claiming to be God, which type of person do you think you would be more like: The non-believing opposition, the secret believer, or a bold believer?

## On Belief (John 12:44-46)

[Use single page Handouts with John 12:44-50]

Read the verses out loud, then have the people do the following:

Write an '=' equal sign above every phrase that affirms that Jesus is equal to God.

Write a '★' star above every phrase regarding belief.

Write an '!' exclamation point above every phrase that deals with judgment.

Underline any word or phrase that you find difficult to understand.

**Question 3:** From verse 46, what things prevent people from seeing God as light and his work in the darkness of this world?

## On Judgment (John 12:47-50)

**Question 4:** If Jesus does not judge us, who does judge us? Reference John 3:16-18. What obstacles prevent you from following God's Word?

**Question 5:** Have you ever been involved in a court of law proceeding where you were part of the case, either the plaintiff or the defendant, or you were part of the jury? Describe that judgment process and how it made you feel or what you learned out of the process.

## John 12:44-50 (NIV)<sup>ii</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. <sup>45</sup> The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

<sup>47</sup> "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

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