

The Father's Glory: The Son's Grief

The Setting

"The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶ At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that these things had been done to Him. ¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with Him when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that He had performed this sign, went out to meet Him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!"

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.

²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus." - John 12:12-22

1. People were there for the feast (*The Passover*).
2. Two crowds converged: one with Jesus (v. 17) and one from the Eastern Gate. They had heard about The miracle.
3. They brought palm branches. Why? – Sign of salvation/victory
4. The Pharisees were beside themselves.
5. The people shouted amazing things:
 - Hosanna — Save Us!
 - He who comes in the name of the Lord. (Psalm 118:26)
 - King of Israel.
6. Jesus was riding a donkey for two reasons:
 - Because of prophecy.

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." – Zechariah 9:9
 - Because of the symbolism — peace.

(The disciples were still "lost". vs. 16)
7. Even Gentiles were in the crowd!

The Words of Jesus to the Gentiles

"Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" - John 12:23-28

1. It is time! (*Jesus usually said His time had not come!*)

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." – John 2:4

"At this they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come." – John 7:30

2. My death will produce life! (The seed illustration)

3. Whoever serves me must follow me always. (No quitters!)

4. I am troubled. I want to be rescued from death, and yet I don't.

5. Father, glorify your name! (*A prayer we all need to learn.*)

The Words of The Father to His Son

"...Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to Him." - John 12:28-29

1. I have and I will! *What did the Father mean?*

"Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" – John 11:40

2. The Father always brings glory to Himself.

"I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and He is the judge." – John 8:50

(People didn't know if this was thunder or an angel speaking.)

3. This was apparently only understood by the believing people.

"The multitude, therefore, who stood by and heard it, were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." – John 12:29 (NASB)

Jesus Speaks to the Jews

"Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death He was going to die." - John 12:30-33

My father spoke to strengthen your faith.

But note...

1. Now is the time for judgment on this world
2. Now is the time for Satan's defeat.

"Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy Him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil..." — Hebrews 2:14

3. Now is the time for salvation!

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself. He said this to show the kind of death He was going to die." — John 12:32,33

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." — John 3:16,17

The Crowd is Confused and Speaks to Jesus

"The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" — John 12:34

This has always been the big issue for Jewish people: they believed that the Messiah would rule forever. How could Jesus say He would die if He was their Messiah?

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." — Daniel 7:13,14

"...but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles..." — 1 Corinthians 1:23

Jesus Offers Grace One Final Time

"Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. ³⁶ Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When He had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid Himself from them." — John 12:35,36

1. Enjoy this moment because darkness is soon coming when you won't have the "son of man" here in your presence.
2. Trust now in this light so that you can be "children of light."
(Then Jesus hid from them. Why?) - timing?

The Problem With Their Belief

"Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in Him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them."

⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about Him. ⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God." — John 12:37-43

1. The people did not believe, which fulfilled prophecy.
2. The people could not believe, because God would not allow it.
3. Some DID believe but their fear of men caused them to fall away.
(Remember Jesus' words about "no quitters.")

The Cry of Jesus

"Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. ⁴⁷ 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. ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰ I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." — John 12:44-50

1. My Father and I are one!
2. I am the light, why would people choose darkness?
3. I came to save mankind, not to judge them.
4. I have only spoken what the Father told me to say.

Final Thoughts

1. Jesus was about to die but two things consumed His thoughts:
 - Bringing glory to His Father.
 - Saving people from eternal death.
2. Do you have a heart like the "Greeks" of this story and have a desire to see Jesus?
3. Is it your desire that your life glorifies your Heavenly Father?
Your Thoughts?

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