

What is Saving Faith?

John 12:27-50

I. INTRO

- A. What is the essence of saving faith? Not religion, but faith that saves, faith that endures, faith that is like those of the apostles, prophets, and heroes of belief...

II. John 12:23-50

- A. *[23] And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. [24] Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. [25] Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. [26] If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. [27] "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. [28] Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." [29] The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." [30] Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.*

1. GOAL = Glorification of the Son and the Father

- a) This dual connection is consistent w/ Jesus' teaching:

- (1) Believe in me and you believe in the Father
- (2) Honor me and you honor the Father
- (3) Receive me and you receive the one who sent me
- (4) Serve the Son, serve the Father, honored by Father

- b) Here, the Son is glorified so that the Father is glorified

2. MEANS = Death, lose life, fall to ground, sacrifice

- a) This is troubling (v27) for Jesus

- (1) He knows the type of death he will die, underserved

- b) This is troubling for us. We don't want to sacrifice, die, either (as David talked about last week)

- c) Troubling, yes, but not a bad thing. Think of it like an apple

- (1) How many apple seeds are in one apple? How many potential apple trees? How many potential apples are in one apple? LOADS!

- (2) Troubling for the apple to fall off a branch and "die" - but the potential result is stupendous!

- d) RECAP: **When we die to our own desires and serve the Son, we multiply disciples and God's glory!**

3. Jesus exemplifies this kind of life.

- a) Jesus knows why he is here, knows that his life is about the Father's glory, knows that the Father's glory is more important than his own suffering. Do you?

4. God the Father confirms that this thought process is correct w/ an audible voice (wish God would do that more!).
- B. [31] Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. [32] And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." [33] He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. [34] So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"*
1. This section answers the implied question, "HOW will the Father glorify his name?"
 2. The Father will glorify his name via the crucifixion (v32).
 - a) The crowd realized (v34) that Jesus was talking about dying b/c they challenge it, saying the Christ won't die
 3. The Father will glorify the Son via the resurrection (Phil 2:9-11).
 4. The Father will glorify his name by judging the world (v31).
 - a) The world is Satan's kingdom - love to the world, but no love for it
 5. The Father will glorify his name by casting Satan out (v31b).
- C. [35] So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. [36] While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.*
1. What is to be done about all this glorifying that will happen? What is our role in this as people watching the Father glorify the son?
 2. Believe in Jesus. Believe he is who he says he is. Believe he will do what he says he will do. Believe in his Word. Faith and belief. Trust.
 3. Let's see if they listen to him.
- D. [37] Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, [38] so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" [39] Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, [40] "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them." [41] Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. [42] Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; [43] for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*
1. Still, they won't believe him. Despite the signs. Despite the words. Despite the miracles. They won't believe him. Why?
 - a) #1 They are blind! (v40-41)
 - (1) Isaiah saw the glory of Jesus in Isaiah 6. He was overwhelmed, undone, had no choice but to repent.

- (2) When you TRULY see Jesus, you are undone.
- (3) They aren't seeing him. Not b/c he isn't there but b/c they are blinded by God?
- (4) Why? Honestly, I don't know all the details (Deut 29:29), except that he is God and this was his plan. We are on a need to know basis and we don't need to know all things.

b) #2 They won't believe in Jesus because they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

- (1) Here is the big threat for YOU.
- (2) They wouldn't believe b/c they were afraid what their friends thought, their parents thought, society thought
- (3) There are people here today who will decide not to follow Jesus b/c of these same reasons.

(a) Galatians 1:10, For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

E. [44] And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. [45] And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. [46] I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. [47] If anyone hears my words 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] The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. [49] For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. [50] And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

- 1. Believe in Jesus and you believe in the Father.
- 2. See Jesus (instead of being blind), and you see the Father.
- 3. Embrace the light and don't remain in darkness.
- 4. Hear and obey his words and escape judgement.
- 5. Reject Jesus, reject his words - be judged on the last day.
- 6. Why? B/C everything Jesus has done is in step w/ the Father's will

7. Believe in Jesus, and receive eternal life.

III. Conclusion - The Bible is consistent. John, the author, is consistent as well. In Revelation 12, we read a prophetic account of Satan being cast out of heaven in the midst of a spiritual war between angels and demons. God casts him out (Jn 12). Here is what the passage says about us in light of this narrative and drama.

A. Revelation 12:11, And they have conquered him [the Dragon, Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

B. How do we glorify the Father? How do we conquer Satan, sin/death, the Dragon?

1. By trusting in the blood of the Lamb (e.g. the Crucifixion).
 2. By maintaining that trust in his testimony (e.g. trusting Jesus' words) even until death. How is that possible?
 3. This only happens when you love the glory of the Father more than the glory that comes from mankind.
- C. Eternal life. The glory of God. These things have always been about trust. Believing in the promise, the Word of God no matter what.
1. This is what Abel did, Abraham did, Moses did, David did, Samuel did, Isaiah did, Jeremiah did, Ezekiel did, John the Baptist, Paul, Peter, Jesus.
- D. Salvation is not found in 'praying a prayer' years ago and having no fruit of belief decades later. That salvation doesn't last in persecution or suffering.
- E. Salvation is not found in church attendance, religious ritual, or check boxes. That salvation doesn't last in persecution or suffering.
- F. Salvation is not found in trying harder or knowing all the right facts. That salvation doesn't last in persecution or suffering.

G. Salvation that perseveres is trusting in the blood of the lamb and the Word of his testimony SO MUCH SO that you care more about that TRUTH than your own life.

1. Now, you might not explain it that way as a spiritual babe, but as you grow up in Jesus, that is what it looks like.
 2. That is the essence of persevering faith, saving faith.
- H. This happens when you SEE Jesus (as opposed to being blind). Isaiah 6:1-9
1. *[1] In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. [2] Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. [3] And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" [4] And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. [5] And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" [6] Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. [7] And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." [8] And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." [9] And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive."*
 2. Isaiah then had an awareness of his lack of holiness, an awareness of Jesus holy, holy, holy worth, and a commissioning despite persecution.
 3. **Jesus has done all the work for salvation. See him in his glory, and believe him no matter what!**

I. See for yourself → Invite to do a DBS