

Morning Sermon October 7, 2018

"Losing the Light / Driven to Darkness" John 12:31-41

I. Last lessons from the Light –

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.³² "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die. (John 12:31-33 NKJ)

I spoke of these verses some last week, they speak of:

1. The judgment of this world:

A. *It is said to be now –*

- *The world is judged because of unbelief*
- *This unbelief is despite great miracles and grace –*

But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, (John 12:37 NKJ)

B. Satan is the "ruler of this world" –

²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
(Ephesians 2:2-3 NKJ)

Sinful ways show (are evidence) we are under the rule of the ruler of this world, we are sons of disobedience, children of wrath!

C. Satan as god of this world blinds people to the Light –

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJ)

D. Satan, the ruler of this world, is cast out –

This means Satan is defeated! This is a message of great hope for those who have dealt in darkness-

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2 NKJ)

2. The conquering of Satan is a victory accomplished by the cross -³² "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die. (John 12:31-33 NKJ)

A. With His death He conquered death, and the Devil –

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
(Hebrew 2:14 NKJ)

B. The conquering sin, death and the Devil makes way for the drawing of God's people to Christ -

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (Jeremiah 31:3 NKJ)

*"Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee."*

Charles Wesley

Yet, some people stubborn, tell Christ, "go away!"

This is our HOME, here we will stay!

*Kings of the dungeon they will be
More than the dungeon, they can't see...*

He is a threat to them as they fight for the Devil's crumbs!

II. Light, not understood, fought with, joked about? –

³⁴ The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" (John 12:34 NKJ)

1. Now, some things they did understand –

A. Christ remains forever, this is true –

Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal

of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:7 NKJ)

- B. They are understanding "The Son of Man must be lifted up" said by Christ, to be a reference to His death, they are correct about this as well.
- 2. However, they don't figure on how these things fit together, they are not understanding His death according to Isaiah 53, that prophesied it –
But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6 NKJ)
- 3. They understand PARTS of Scripture, they neglect other PARTS of Scripture, they totally miss the Son of Man reference, when they should not have ...

“Who is this ‘Son of Man?’” This is a mocking question, as if Christ had been defeated by that little refutation. This shows how arrogant ignorance is.” John Calvin

"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14 NKJ)

III. Light leaving, darkness driving –

Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in 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." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. (John 12:35-36 NKJ)

- 1. The problem of a little time, this is always the case – See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be

unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:15-17 NKJ)

2. An age and aging thing –

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":² While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;³ In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim;⁴ When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low;⁵ Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.⁶ Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:1-10 NKJ)

3. This passage is not so much about age, but rather about God's coming judgment / judicial hardening – what a fearful thing this judicial hardening is! These were people who read Scripture, these were people who had partial understanding. These were people Scripture calls blinded and hardened –

³⁷ But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,³⁸ that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"³⁹ Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."⁴¹ These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him. (John 12:37-41 NKJ) See Isaiah 53 -

We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. (Isaiah 59:10 NKJ)

O LORD, why have You made us stray from Your ways, And hardened our heart from Your fear? Return for Your servants' sake, The tribes of Your inheritance. (Isaiah 63:17 NKJ)

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