

Faithful Belief and Fatal Unbelief

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I. Introduction. Text: John 12:27-50.

II. John has no account of the struggles of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, but there is an account in John that is called “little Gethsemane” because it reflects the same anguish.

III. The voice of God spoke from the heavens.

A. This is the same voice at God’s baptism.

B. This was the same voice at the Transfiguration.

C. This voice confirms Jesus—it indicates God’s pleasure in the faithfulness of His beloved Son who was willing to endure the terrible trial before Him for the glory of His name.

IV. Jesus’ glory.

A. Exposing the wrong attitude of the world—we blindly find ourselves following Satan, the ruler of this world.

B. For the first time because of the cross, the devil’s power was broken over the human race.

C. When Jesus’ is lifted up on the cross men begin to drawn to Him.

1. No one can escape Jesus.

2. God has appointed a day of judgment through Jesus Christ.

V. The crowd’s reaction.

A. They believed that the Messiah would remain forever, so they struggled with Jesus’ prediction of His death. (Isaiah 9)

B. But God fulfills His promises—if we do not see His promises, it is something wrong with us and not God.

C. The character of the unbelieving crowd.

1. They believed in only a select part of the Bible.

2. These unbelievers missed their last opportunity.

3. They did not recognize their present and evil condition.

4. They were ignorant of a spiritual law: acting on truth changes you.

5. They lost their opportunity.

D. John quotes Isaiah 51 and 6 concerning the lack of belief and God's hardening of the heart—if you do not use faith you lose it.

VI. The importance of exercising faith after coming to believe in Jesus.

A. A form of belief that is not real belief at all is one that does not act.

B. Jesus Christ is so much a matter of history that you cannot afford to live without Him.

C. If you only pay lip service to Christ, you betray yourself.

D. Judgment does not fall on us all immediately, but it does come—God deals with people in regards to what they have heard.

E. We are all given a capacity for faith, but frequently something leaks our faith away—some compromise.

Application questions:

1. What is Jesus' glory? Explain.

2. How does John characterize the unbeliever? What kind of a window of opportunity does he have for believe?

3. What areas of your life do you tend to compromise your faith? How will your response look differently in light of the message from John?
