

## **John 12:25 – 50**

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~ Our Spiritual Safari concluded the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God at a critical juncture. The way it ties in at verse twenty-five should sound the most alarming warning bell you have ever heard from God. I doubt many of you dear readers even know this passage exists. I highly doubt you will EVER hear a sermon on this passage taught correctly. In our last report, the seed died, and it abided alone; and, because it died, it brought forth much fruit. You should open your Bible, pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then read this entire chapter carefully - and then read this report. By the way, my question is: who hath believed my report? To whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

We enter an arresting section of Scripture that ushers in the conclusion of the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. We reviewed the account of the so-called Triumphal Entry, and concluded it wasn't so triumphant considering Jesus was there to die for our sins. Further, we are not considering a chronological account of the last days of Christ; it is important to bear that in mind. That said, the Gospel of John probably follows Jesus life more chronologically than any other Gospel. Well, either way, we know the Lord Jesus has given His last public teaching, and He has made His last public appearance. Next, we will see Jesus in the upper room, and we'll be there with John for quite a few reports. We have come upon the most exquisite jewel in the entirety of Holy Writ. We also saw how we were ascending up a spiritual mountain of the government of God in this Gospel. Well, we're not at the top yet - but we will be. I whole-heartedly assure you we will all be so high up we will be choking and gasping for air before we conclude this Gospel account.

Going forward, we will examine and contemplate the findings of spiritual matters in events of the physical realm. Candidly, there is simply no way to spiritualize our safari now – this is just real. We can hold a grain of wheat in our hand, and we can examine it under the microscope; but to see the fruit and its complete future potential unlocked, that seed must die and be

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planted in the ground. Interestingly, it doesn't stay dead, although it may remain dormant for indefinite periods of time. Well, sooner or later, it grows – if it is GOOD seed.

Remember, the Greek men had come to see Jesus. Many people today think they have seen Him because they have read through the Bible and the Gospels and studied His life. I hate to tell you this, but that, in no way, means you have ever seen Him, known Him or even understand Him at all. My question is: do you love Him? Any brilliant but insincere skeptic can write a striking biography of Jesus from a historical perspective. When that natural man attempts to interpret that life of Christ he is absolutely, totally and woefully wrong – every time. Man is not going to second guess God, my beloved. You can forget that. The man who makes an interpretation of Christ but does not know Him as their Savior sounds utterly stupid – every time. Jesus died a redemptive death so that you and I might have life. This is a tremendous principle to learn: that if the seed die it abideth alone; but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit. I don't know about you, but this seems like a very odd thing to say to the Greeks that have come to see Him. Until we recognize and understand the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ correctly, properly and completely, we simply have not seen Jesus, my friends – AND....

*25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*

~ So, we have staggering and sobering words to consider in this statement. I think we could actually go into eternity writing reports on this verse; but don't worry – we'll keep it moving. This verse is where our safari could easily bog down into the mire if we didn't have the Holy Spirit as our Teacher and Guide. We are still talking about miracles. We find two kinds of life set in contrast to one another. First, the psychological life – the "psyche" – as man likes to call it. That psyche enjoys the things of this world immensely. It seeks only a gratification of the senses of the flesh. The flesh can live it up in this life, as we all know. Well, he who loveth that natural, physical life will drink it up, sex it up, drug it up – there are a whole lot of ways to satisfy this flesh. The only problem is: one day we are going

to die – and that’s it – all that fleshly stuff will be saying good-bye to you. It will still be around, but YOU won’t. It’s not nice to have to say that but – too bad!

A preacher was called to perform a rich man’s funeral rites; he was given the following advice: do NOT preach a sermon about how riches will send you to hell because those in attendance will get a little uneasy. Well, he says something like, “.... here lays the man whose life is in the past and he has used it all up.” That’s not good. There sure was weeping, on both sides of the realm, my beloved. The rich man despises God, and they turn their backs on the Lord Jesus Christ, so they are through at death – they are FINISHED. Preach your funeral services along those lines, and then tell the crowd that this is the way every single one of them is going to end up unless they turn to the Lord Jesus today, and you will not be an often called upon preacher, my friends. You can’t make it any plainer than that; and to water this down – or tone it down – at a funeral does them all a disservice. They’re already vulnerable – what better time for the Holy Spirit to thoroughly traumatize them properly if He wants to? ~

*26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

*27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

~ There is a suffering that was endured by the Lord Jesus on the cross that you and I cannot comprehend. Suffering at the fleshy hands of mere man was bad enough, but Christ suffered even beyond that. See, your sins – and my sins – were put upon Him; and that made Christ a man of sorrows. Christ was well-acquainted with grief hanging on the cross; but those griefs were not His. Through all of this, Jesus said He endured the cross obediently for the joy that was set before Him. Christ bore our sorrows and carried our griefs, is the precise quote. Our sins were placed upon sinless God; and Jesus was made sin for us. Not in some academic manner – but in an acutely real sense. It pleased God to do this; He hath put Him to grief, is the precise quote. He hath made His soul an offering for sin.

Our sins being placed upon the One Who was Holy, harmless, separate from sinners and undefiled, is something we don't understand. Biblical truth is a whole lot deeper than man's comprehension. God forbid we should glory, save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. My friends, he that loveth their life will surely lose it. You can definitively know where a man is going by the way he is living. If you're going to be saved, you're going to have to trust Christ. Believe and ye shall be saved – not work yourself to death – sure – but – when you come to Christ, if it does not change your life dramatically, then you haven't turned to Him and you're not resting in Him. The affect of a true conversion upon your life will be so profound it will frighten you.

If you are genuinely saved, you will no longer live for the things of this world. I see so many so-called Christians who put so much money into their homes and cars – and other things down here – that it makes me wonder where their heart really is. Some men mortgage everything they own to obtain more of the things of this world. Most people would have their hearts broken if they had to leave their possessions to go meet Jesus in the air right now. If you love your life – you are going to lose it. He that hateth his life IN THIS WORLD – don't miss that part – in this world – shall keep it unto life eternal.

It's pure foolishness to say you are trusting God yet living like the devil; that isn't trusting God, friends. What we are doing in the Bible has to change our life or we are the worst possible type of hypocrite – dangerous. See, this isn't a question of the Lord going along with us; we must make sure we are following Him. If you are in a liberal church and you think you take the Lord with you to church, I have bad news: the Lord doesn't go to that church – you go alone. It's past time we all figure this wholly avoided and neglected section of Scripture out properly, correctly and completely. I don't think I've ever heard a sermon on this....

*28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*

*29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.*

~ Heaven simply couldn't remain silent now; there had to be a response. When that voice came from Heaven, the people were shaken – badly – as the Father spoke to the Son. The problem for these people at this time is that this was as close as they could come to God. Angel ministry in the Old Testament is tremendous, and totally misunderstood and misapplied by believers today. God had a message for Old Testament man - and that message usually came directly from the Angel of the Lord – the pre-incarnate Christ – as we have established previously on safari.

Well, these people don't know whether an angel spoke or if it only thundered. Some gave the natural explanation and agreed it happened – but they said it was just a natural noise. The liberal comes to the Word of God and says, "... this is not God's Word because it is full of contradiction and errors." The liberal says we cannot fully trust the Bible. Of course, they say the parts that you CAN trust are the parts that support their own personal theology – however conflicting it may be with the next man. The liberal says the miracles are not possible, and they say that only because THEY do not believe in miracles. This is one thing that simply DOES amaze me, honestly. The other amazing thing is how many people fall for such blatant false teachings; most of the while claiming their own false teaching. The blind startlingly insist on leading the blind.

Well, some thought an angel spoke to Jesus at this time, and that articulates the supernatural. It is the ultra-conservative viewpoint. Because both groups are wrong, and there is no third group, we have an utterly terrifying and frightening revelation. Some of them thought it was just a distant thunder. That's the explanation they hold as many nod their heads and wag their tails in agreement all the way to hell. Jesus birth was supernatural, and His life was full of miracles; and His death was like the planting of a grain of wheat. The resurrection was NOT spiritual – it was ACTUAL and PHYSICAL. The gimmick of a thunder explanation has been used through the ages because there's no mark of intelligence required to make such a statement. What we need today is spiritual perception and

appreciation of the Word of God so we can properly recognize, hear, see and know His voice, my beloved....

*30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.*

*31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*

~ Here, we have one of Jesus prophecies of His death on the cross as the judgment of the world; the prince of this world IS judged by that. The Holy Spirit will bear witness to these things when we seek Jesus. The world simply will not accept Christ, however, and so, the world is judged accordingly. This is what Jesus is saying to us today. Multitudes pass by at least half dozen churches every day, but the church is completely ineffective at getting the Word of God to those people in an educated manner. We have wave after wave of seminary students who do not hear the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. Secular students, laborers, men and women in uniform, the blue collar and rich group are just not hearing the Word of God taught by men who believe God. May I say this kindly? – NONE of them are hearing the Word of God from the organized modern-day church; and yet communities continue to pack into those churches in droves....

*32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

~ And, my friends, this is the whole answer to the problem of the above paragraph's debacle: the Lord Jesus Christ is NOT being lifted up today and that is why He is not drawing all men to Him; you will have to discard any wrong thinking patterns you have about this topic if you wish to continue in the Spiritual Safari. You know, if we could get this Word of God out to the world correctly, it would be the most wonderful thing that ever happened. I seriously doubt that I am making myself clear to my readers, just about all the time. I cannot stress to you the importance of getting this message taught properly, correctly and completely.

If you lift the Lord Jesus Christ up, He will draw men unto Himself. That means allowing the Spirit of God to live through you and being Biblically literate. If you think this is being preached around the world, you are entirely wrong. The sound doctrine of the apostles is not being preached by community leaders - anywhere - and, as a result, mankind is wrong about literally everything. Let's keep this real. The forum that the Spiritual Safari teaches on is as pagan as walking down any street in any city of this world. The contemporary church's emphasis is simply not placed on lifting up the redemptive death of Christ that would draw men to Him and transform lives; but that's exactly what Jesus emphasizes here....

*33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.*

*34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?*

*35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.*

*36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.*

*37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:*

*38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

*39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,*

*40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.*

~ We have an extremely confused crowd on our hands here, friends. These people are worn down and out and they have had enough. It is entirely possible and very easy for a man to wake up in the morning and say to himself, "... I refuse to see this." That man refuses to open his eyes. These people had the mud cakes applied to their eyes by the miracles of the Lord Jesus, but they refused to follow through and go wash and complete the ritualistic commands He gave; and that is what it amounts to. Nothing more or less. If the blind man did not go wash as Jesus instructed him to, he would have remained as blind as he ever was. This is some dangerously strong medicine, is it not? We could easily overdose right now, spiritually; so, let's move forward....

*41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.*

*42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:*

*43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*

*44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.*

*45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.*

*46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

~ Well, we're going to see two Pharisee's that were afraid of being put out of the synagogue taking down the body of Jesus from the cross. It's truly unfortunate that men love the praise of men more than the praise of God. Thank God, sometimes, someone still does what's right – irrespective of the



consequences. Well, when Jesus says He is a light come into the world, that takes us back to the blind man again. Friends, you are going to be judged according to the Word of God – not by whatever else you erroneously believe you will be judged by....

*47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*

*48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

*49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

*50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak ~*

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