



SERIES: John Believe
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Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Scripture: John 12:47-50
TITLE: Salvation from Judgment

Welcome to Win the Day. I'm Nate, your coach, filling in for Pastor Nat and today we'll talk about salvation from judgment.

We are in John's Gospel with John 12:47-50:

"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. 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. 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. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

We have just heard Jesus teaching again about how He is the light of the world, and those who believe in Him will no longer remain in darkness. He once again demands belief in Him in order to believe in God the Father, and vice versa. Jesus then makes His next point on judgment regarding the message He has from God.

We see here that Jesus didn't come to judge the world but to save it. You've probably heard this said before. It's a recognizable verse mentioned by Christians. However, sometimes taken and given out of context.

First, why does Jesus not judge and condemn the world at that moment? Because Jesus' first mission was to save the world as the Lamb of God. Meaning, He offered Himself to be sacrificed to pay the penalty of death for our sins. Every one of us is under a death sentence already for our sin against God. We are lost in that darkness. Yet Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), while living a life of perfect obedience to God as an example for us to follow. That was Christ's purpose and mission from God, and He followed the Father's will.

Of course God, being holy, has the sole authority to give and take life. Who are we to defy a holy God and think that we should get away with it? Jesus is God's Son with whom He is well pleased (Mark 1:11), do we think we can reject Him and get away with it? God could judge the world at any moment He pleased, condemning all of us based on our sin and He would be perfectly right in doing so. But God is patient toward us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Second, Jesus doesn't judge the world at that time because He already has. That's the point that is often left out of context. Jesus is the judge. Acts 17:31 tells us:

He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.

So while the mission of Christ was to live to die, His mission also included His words. Jesus taught on sin and warned about the fiery judgment that awaits anyone who remained in their sin by rejecting Christ. He called the crowds to repent of their sin, to believe in Him for salvation from judgment, and to go and sin no more. He told us about how great God's love for humanity was that He would send His only Son to die for us. And Jesus explained to us what the Kingdom of God is like.

So we must understand that God's patience doesn't last forever. It'll be a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God on that day (Hebrews 10:31). For now He has spoken the word of life to us, revealed in Christ and accurately preserved in the Bible, that we should hear and obey before it's too late. If we reject Christ and His message then we reject God and therefore remain in darkness. And Jesus will judge us on the last day based on whether or not we received His words.

This message of Truth comes from God. Jesus once again makes a simple distinction for us. He comes from God. He's the Son of God. What He teaches isn't His, but God's who sent Him (John 7:16). When God commands Jesus to go, to give this message, and to die, Jesus believes God's command and obeys. We should do the same. Belief in His commands is eternal life. It is deliverance from the domain of darkness and into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). Refusal means you will remain in judgment. Believe His commands, the word which Jesus has spoken, and receive salvation from Judgment.