

“20 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: 21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. 22 Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. 25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 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 honor. 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. 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. 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. 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. 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. 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. 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.” (Joh 12:20-50)

This Easter I want to speak of three things in this passage that I read a moment ago: The Agitation of Christ; The Mission of Christ, and the Promise of Christ: The Agitation, the Mission, and the Promise of Jesus of Nazareth who is the Christ, the Son of God. Agitation, Mission, Promise. I expect to paint with a broad brush this morning for our understanding and benefit.

But before we do this, I would remind you of what we saw last week of the events that took place, and the paradoxical character of those events.

A. The resurrection of Lazarus: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the Life"

B. The Anointing of Mary, which Jesus said was for His burial. What??

C. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem: Thy king comes, having salvation.

D. vs. 16: These things the disciples did not understand until after the glorification of Christ. There are now some other hard things for the disciples to understand:

#### I. Agitation of Jesus, vss. 20-27

A. Some Gentiles come seeking Jesus

B. Jesus speaks of his glorification; but of the horror that should precede it: the corn of wheat must fall into the ground and die. We must follow him in this: vs. 25,26

C. His great agitation and prayer to God; if this was hard for Him, do you think it easy for us?

#### II. Mission of Jesus, vss. 28-36

A. To bring judgment to the world; to cast out the prince of the world, and so fulfill God's promise to Adam and Eve: that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent.

B. This would be accomplished by the kind of death He would die: He would die the death of one accursed of God, so that His people would be blessed of God.

C. This lifting up would draw all men to Christ; the world would be changed forever.

D. This light has come to the world, but men must walk in the light if you are to know where you are going. By this you will be children of the light.

E. He would, however, be taken from the world after His resurrection, for He would ascend into heaven where He is even as we speak these words.

#### Explanation of John vss. 37-43

1. To correct the error of thinking that the coming of Christ would bring every person to righteousness. The gospel would have great effect over the whole world, but there would still be tares among the wheat.

2. These words of Christ did not mean that every individual would be saved, because some would be blinded by the light.

3. But many, even among the chief rulers, believed but did not confess at that time, although they did later, after He had risen from the dead.

#### III. Promise and Call of Jesus, vss. 44-50 This is the message that would go to the world after His resurrection from the dead and glorification:

A. Faith in Jesus of Nazareth is faith in God, for He is the revelation of God: vss. 44, 45

B. His coming did not judge the world, for it was already judged: his judgment was upon the devil, vs. 31, for the purpose of delivering those who believe. This salvation is not just for Israel, but for the world. Vss 46,47

C. The words of Jesus Christ are with great authority and will judge all men at the last day, for He was sent by God with works to do and a message to send. Vs. 49

D. These works and words are everlasting life to those who believe. Vs. 50

## Conclusion and Application:

1. All of this would have been mute, except for one glorious event. He would have been nothing else but a charlatan and a miracle monger, for all his fancy words.
2. He would have been forgotten in the dust of history and his words forgotten forever except for this event.
3. That event: the glorious resurrection from the dead, and His ascension into Heaven to make it all come to pass by sending forth His Spirit to project His power and glory in the world.
3. But He did rise from the dead, affirming his power and authority and the approval of God, according to Romans 1:1-3.
4. His words now ring through the ages of history: “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. 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.”
5. Let us make much of Jesus Christ, and believe his words and the words of His apostles.
6. Let us remember His words, “the seed must die, to bring forth fruit,” and we also must follow Him in repentance and faith, not seeking our own words and our own ways, but the way that He has set before us to serve one another with godly fear.

God bless you. Amen and Amen.