

John 49 – To See or Not To See God is the Question

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John 14:21-31

Interlacing Lessons

- “Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”
(John 14:19)
- Christ makes an important distinction between His incarnate and post-incarnate interactions with people
 - Before His incarnation Christ had some interactions with lost people: Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar (Gen 41, Dan 2)
 - Post-incarnation: Christ comes only to His people sharing His eternal life with them as commanded by the Father

Love: Basis for Seeing Christ

- “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and *manifest* myself...”
(John 14:23)
- Love from God is the basis for the New Covenant
- Saved will have God’s new nature linking them to God
- Christ will call out (ἐκκλησία) His people: Church first then True Jews and associated Gentiles for the Kingdom

Judas Asks Important Question

- Judas asks an important question: How is this possible?
 - Mindset of the flesh is empirical, not spiritual
 - Judas, all the Apostles, think only in empirical terms as they do not yet possess the new nature (Post Stauros)
 - Therefore, how can Christ be with them and the world not see Him
 - Christ is speaking spiritually of the coming indwelling

The Home Within – Temple

- Christ gives an outward indicator of the non-empirical quality of God, Love: We are living Temples of God (1Co 6:19-20)
 - Those who are loved of God will receive His new nature evidenced by their loving Christ and obeying the Father
 - The world retains its fleshly sinful nature: (Ro 1:18-25; Jo 8:44-60)
 - Does not want God's love
 - Lives according to their father: Lucifer (Lies and Violence)

New Nature: Basis to See God

- God saves whom He will (Ro 9:16-24)
 - He gives them His nature which naturally lives as Christ lives: Pleasing the Father
 - The new nature is the basis for seeing: i.e., knowing God
 - Strengthened by the indwelling Father, Son and Spirit who teach the believer, as an infant, how to live in coherence with this new nature which the body of flesh opposes

Specific Ministries of the Spirit

- Holy Spirit's specific ministries for believers
 - Holy Spirit is the teacher to train the new nature based on the Word: Christ and the Bible
 - Holy Spirit will recall Christ's words to the Apostles, and by implication, passages of Scriptures to those believers who read and study the Bible
 - Many believers resist the Holy Spirit's training (1e 5:11-16)

Formula for Peace of God

- Christ gives the formula for *knowing* the peace of God
 - New nature
 - Indwelling Holy Spirit
 - Being taught the Word(s) by the Spirit
 - Living the truth reinforcing the new nature
 - Thus, one has increasing peace due to maturation in grace of Christ

Whose Peace Do You Live?

God's Peace

- God's Peace: Permanent
- God's Peace: Overcomes fleshly fear (1 Jo 4:18)
- God's Peace: Faces tribulation as Christ faced *stauros*, looks to Heaven

World's Peace

- Satan's Peace: Illusion
- Satan's Peace: Engenders fear of Judgment
- Satan's Peace: increasing fear manifests itself as anxiety, panic & violence

Christ Going to the Father

- Christ is teaching the Apostles because He is leaving
 - They will feel fear and isolation which is observed during and following His death on the stauros {Tree}
 - Christ tells the Apostles they should rejoice because He is returning to the Father to give them the Spirit; which they really do not comprehend
 - He is going away so He can come to everyone simultaneously which He could not otherwise do

Christ Tells Them Before Hand

- Christ bases His teaching on His omniscience whether by His own knowledge or via the Spirit from the Father is of little consequence; yet,
 - Old Testament prophecy did not change behavior
 - Telling the Apostles will not change their behavior
 - Christ prophesies these truths so that after Pentecost they will remember His statements, and believe Him

Accepted and Not Accepted

Abel – Worthless One

- God respected Abel's offering showing that God *accepted* Abel
- No record of God talking directly to Abel
- Abel first martyr simply for believing God

Cain – Messiah: Strong One

- God rejected Cain's offering showing that God did not *accept* Cain
- God talked directly to Cain without effect
- Cain first leader & murderer (J= 8:44)

Hearing or Not Hearing God

- Christ is publicly praying to God to glorify His (God's) name through His coming death; God answers audibly from Heaven: For believers (Jo 12:27-30)
 - Christ inwardly hears His Father's voice
 - Many hear only thunder - World
 - Some believed an angel was speaking - Believers"
 - God's voice differentiated believers from non-believers

Revealing and Not Revealing

- Christ revealed Himself to Saul (Paul) on the Damascus road changing Paul's life (Salvation) (Ac 9:1-7)
 - Christ's Light, glory, shone on Saul but was apparently not seen by his companions (Co 1:3; Jo 1:4-5)
 - Saul hears Christ speaking to him and believes in Him while his companions hear an indistinguishable voice
 - Again, manifesting Himself to His chosen as opposed to remaining hidden from unbelievers (Election)

God Reveals Himself to Job

- Job, book, details various views of God unbelievers held, this includes Job until near the end of the book
 - God deals with Job, chosen, who displays religiosity and some knowledge of God
 - Elihu (saved) finally tells Job his true condition-Wicked
 - God speaks directly to Job, alone, bringing him to salvation; Job to offer Ascending Offering for his friends; i.e., teach them God's truth (Gospel)

Christ Reveals Satan is Coming

- This is probably a double entendre
 - The arresting party, led by Judas Ish Cariot is coming for Christ
 - Lucifer will be testing Christ tempting Him to give in to His flesh (sin) to fail the *Paschal Lamb* examination
 - Christ reveals the Accuser has no hold on Him because He is doing the will of the Father; immovable faith - No doubts; therefore, no fear even knowing what is coming

Christ Has Foretold Satan's End

- After hearing the Father's voice Christ said:
(Jn 12:31-32)
 - The judgment of the world has come
 - The Accuser will be cast down (out of Heaven) (Re 12:7-12)
- Predicated upon His payment for sin - Stauros death
 - Then He will draw all believers to Himself
 - Implies world will not be drawn to Him; but, to Satan

Summary

- Christ's death and resurrection will change forever the relationship between the Trinity and people
 - Those who are Christ's will be drawn to Him because He seeks, saves them and seals, and indwells them
 - He no longer reveals Himself to the world for they have consistently rejected the Light they were given (Jn 1:9-11)
 - Jews
 - Gentiles

God Demonstrates His Love

- Jesus is God's love incarnate and Jesus' demonstrated His love for God by dying on the stauros for those called by God before Creation (Ro 5:6-10, Ep 1:1-12)
 - He *purchased* the new nature, God's nature, for believers
 - Since He is in us we have communion through Him to the Father and He to us via His Word and words (1Co 1:20)
 - This is foolishness to the world who reject God's truth (1Co 2:14)

They Move to the Garden

- Christ moves the group from the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane
 - Christ will reinforce His teachings and give additional insight into this fundamental change of relationship that will occur when "it is finished"
 - It is in the intimacy of the Garden that He will pray, but they, like us, do not pray due to weakness of the flesh; thus, the Spirit prays for them as He does for us (Ro 8:26-27)

Dumbing Down the Word

- Today's Gospel *dumbs down* what the Bible teaches concerning new covenant salvation; swayed by world
 - Because so little seriousness is given to the holiness of one's relationship to God, and His Son, very few Christians today understand the depth of this change
 - Frivolousness underlies most church services with heavy reliance on entertainment and gimmicks; something never observed in biblical Gospel accounts