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DARKNESS OR ??

Ever come to a major crossroad in your life? That's Jesus in John 12. Everything led up to this turning point, and now it's all changing. The previous chapters presented Jesus as God come in the flesh - come to save His people from their sins. And that's what unfolds in the next few hours in the next pages.

After His triumphal entry, Jesus makes His final public proclamation to the people in verses 27-50. One last chance to turn to His light - or else stumble forever in the darkness they've chosen. The stakes couldn't be higher, as the cross looms on Jesus' horizon. In verse 27, His soul is greatly troubled. He prays, "**For this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.**" Then God spoke from heaven, "**I have glorified it and I will glorify it again.**"

God had spoken like this before about Jesus. At His baptism, He said "*You are My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.*" And at His transfiguration, God said "*This is My beloved Son, listen to Him.*" Each time, His words are spoken for the benefit of the people. And God's voice is also an echo of the glory from heaven that He has revealed into the world. That is, His eternal Son, the "Word" of God, who became living flesh to dwell among us, reveal God to us, and save us. The "glory" is Christ Himself.

John's gospel has recorded all this, as God glorifies His name in the coming of Christ. Jesus reminds us in chapter 11 "*did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?*" And here in chapter 12, Jesus again links His humiliation on the cross with His glorification through the cross. God's plan and purpose is unfolding NOW, and Jesus says, *pay attention everyone - and believe!*

In verse 31 Jesus elaborates. "**Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.**" **He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.**

Jesus knows His purpose, and He plans to accomplish it all. In God's time. In God's way. Nothing - certainly not the rebellious fallen angel Satan - will frustrate the Sovereign of the universe. Jesus hasn't even gone to the cross yet, but Satan is already done for. Defeated. Because Jesus WILL be lifted up - on the cross - and SAVE all who will believe in Him. From every tribe and tongue, as God promised.

The people are puzzled. They focused on the Old Testament passages describing the triumphant Christ. So why is Jesus talking about being crucified? That's the "suffering servant" Messiah of Isaiah. Jesus had been showing the people not only His deity but His humility. They wanted a political king, but He's more than that - He's come to save not their earthly desires, but their eternal souls.

That's why, one more time, Jesus points to Himself as "the light" - the focus of the voice and the glory. Jesus is God in the flesh, the eternal light come to blaze through the darkness of sin and unbelief. Verse 36 Jesus says, "**While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become people of light.**"

Did anyone listen? John adds commentary in verses 37-43. "**Though He had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in Him.**" It was just as God had spoken through the prophet Isaiah. The people don't want to believe God, they want to believe only what they want to believe. Voices from heaven, light and glory, miracles, nothing makes any difference. They choose darkness. "**They loved the glory of man more than the glory that comes from God,**" John says in verse 43.

Yet, the words of Jesus ring loud and clear in verse 45, "**I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.**" He goes on to speak about the judgment of the last day, when all who reject Him will be without excuse, because they stopped their eyes and ears. They would not receive the voice, the light, the glory, as God revealed Himself to them in Jesus.

But what about YOU today? Are you at a crossroad? Will you choose the darkness, of ignorance and unbelief, by rejecting Jesus Christ? That's sealing your own judgment. OR, will you repent? Will you turn and come to Jesus, and believe in Him as The Light? Your Lord and Savior? And so become a "child of light" - who becomes like the Light, and who brings others to the Light too.