

John 12:44-50

Jesus shouted to the crowds, “If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. ⁴⁵For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark. ⁴⁷I will not judge those who hear me but don’t obey me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it. ⁴⁸But all who reject me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken. ⁴⁹I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. ⁵⁰And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”

Background

The public ministry of Jesus in John ends at chapter 12, followed by the private “Upper Room Discourses” with His disciples in chapter 13. John 12 serves as a summary of Jesus’ public manifestation of Himself to the nation of Israel.

Verse 44 says Jesus “shouted” to the people. He raised His voice to the Passover crowd just days before His crucifixion, emphasizing the urgency and importance of His message, both then and today.

Teaching Points

1. To believe in Jesus is to believe in God.

Jesus declared, “*If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me*” (v44), affirming His deity. Believing in Jesus is believing in God. Conversely, rejecting Jesus is rejecting God (1 John 2:23). Those who claim to believe in God but deny Jesus do not truly believe in the God of the Bible. Jesus is the one true God, who is one in essence and three in Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. To see Jesus is to see God.

Jesus said, “*When you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me*” (v45), meaning that seeing Jesus reveals the moral glory and character of God the Father. This is not a physical sight of God, since no one has seen God (John 1:18). It reminds us of what Jesus told Philip in John 14:9:

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” Jesus is the perfect revelation of the Father. To know what God is like, look at Jesus.

3. To reject the words of Jesus is to reject God.

Jesus said He came to save, not to judge (v47), but those who reject His words will be judged by them on the last day (v48-49). This isn't a contradiction. His purpose is salvation, but the result of rejecting that salvation is judgment. Just as refusing to be rescued from a sinking ship leads to death, rejecting Jesus' message brings judgment. Believing in Jesus means accepting God; rejecting Him means rejecting God and facing judgment.

Application

1. Our decision now counts forever.

In verse 48 Jesus says that how we respond to His words now determines our eternal destiny. Despite attempts by some scholars to deny Jesus' authentic words, His teachings remain the ultimate standard. Rejecting His words leads to judgment, so our decision to believe today matters forever.