



March 30, 2025
Jesus at the Festivals
THE THIRD PASSOVER (PART 3)
John 12:27–36



1. Opening Discussion Questions: (in a group setting, you may not want to use all of these)

- a. Have you ever been in a situation where your family, friends, or co-workers expected and applied a great deal of pressure for you to behave in a particular manner even though it was not what you wanted to do? Describe the experience and how you responded. How did you feel the experience influenced your relationship with those applying the pressure?
- b. Have you ever struggled for a long time trying to learn a difficult subject in school, master a musical instrument, or become proficient in a sport, only to experience a breakthrough and suddenly it became clear or at least easier? What do you attribute the change to? How would you have felt if you had given up before accomplishing your task or goal?

2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. As His Time Arrived, Jesus was Troubled By the Weight of It
 - i. Jesus was deeply troubled by what He was about to do
 - ii. However, Jesus was committed to the Father and the Father to Him
- b. Jesus Was Preparing to Defeat the Devil and Save the World As Our Passover Lamb
 - i. Jesus explained the cosmic significance of the cross and resurrection
 - ii. Jesus fulfilled the promise of the Passover afikomen
- c. Believe In the Light, Share the Light, Be the Light
 - i. Jesus explained time was short - believe in the light
 - ii. Time is still short!

3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. ***Sunday Afternoon*** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon, set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - i. What one thing stood out most to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. ***Monday:***
 - i. This week's focal passage is John 12:27-36.
 1. Before reading the passage, go back in John 12 and review what has happened in the first 26 verses.

2. Now, read the focal passage twice. The first time, read it quickly as you would a novel being read just for pleasure. The second time, read each sentence, pausing to contemplate what is meant and what it says to you before continuing. Repeat with another translation if one is available.
 3. After reading, make a list of the main truths you see presented in the passage. Is there one truth that applies to you most meaningfully?
 4. Select one or two verses and attempt to memorize them this week.
- ii. What does Jesus mean when He says, “Now my soul is troubled” in verse 27?
1. The Greek word translated as “troubled” is also used in John 11:33 (read verses 33-35) and 13:21 (read verses 18-21). What do these verses tell you about Jesus’ humanity? Do you see a common factor that leads Jesus to be troubled in soul or spirit?
 2. John is the only Gospel that does not record the events in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, and Luke 22:39-46). Read one or more of these accounts and compare them to John 12:27-28.
 3. What significance do you see in the fact that John tells us Jesus was troubled early in the week (or at least before the Last Supper) and that the other Gospels report Jesus’ agony in the Garden at the end of the week? What does that tell us about His commitment to the purpose for which He came?

c. ***Tuesday:***

- i. Read the entire focal passage, John 12:27-36, focusing on verses 27-28.
- ii. If you were to describe the attitude that Jesus displays in verses 27-28 in one word, what would it be?
 1. What word does Hebrews 5:7 suggest? Hebrews 5:8?
 2. According to Romans 5:19, how important was His mindset to us today? Where would we be if it had been different?
 3. What do you see significant in the fact that Jesus does not say “What shall I do” but “What shall I say”? What does it suggest about His mindset?
- iii. John, more than the other Gospel writers, emphasizes “glorifying” God. Read these verses: John 8:54, 11:4, 13:31-32, 14:13, 15:8, 17:1, 17:4-5, and 17:10. What do you learn about glorifying God? Which verse provides an extremely practical way in which we should all be actively participating?
- iv. Verse 28 is the third time the Father speaks audibly in testimony and support of His Son. Read Matthew 3:17 and 17:5. What is the significance of these three instances? Why do you think God validates Jesus’ identity and mission at these three points? In what way is this third occurrence different?
 1. How had God glorified His name (See John 13:31-32 and 17:4)?
 2. How was God going to glorify His name in the future (again)?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Read the entire focal passage, John 12:27-36, again today, this time focusing on verses 29-31.
- ii. God speaking directly to people is a significant occurrence in the Old Testament, something that the people, or at least the religious leaders, would have recognized as a sign from God. Read these passages: Exodus 20:1 & 18-19, Deuteronomy 5:4 & 23-26, Job 37:4-5; 40:9; Psalm 29:3-9.
 1. How does the description of God's speech in John 12:29 compare with Old Testament accounts?
 2. How does it compare with the way Jesus spoke to Paul in Acts 9:4-7 and 22:6:9?
 3. What do these verses suggest about why most of the crowd does not seem to have understood what God said? What does it suggest about who is able to understand the Word of God (see Matthew 13:11 and John 6:65)?
- iii. What benefit do you think Jesus was talking about in verse 30 (see Exodus 19:9 and John 11:42)?
- iv. In verse 31, Jesus shows us that a pivotal point in human history has been reached.
 1. What word does He use (twice) to emphasize this point? Do we need to wait for the events in Revelation for the judgment?
 2. Who is the ruler of this world (see John 14:30, 16:11, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, 6:12, and Revelation 12:9)
 3. Read Hebrews 2:14-15 and Colossians 2:13-15. How do these passages further clarify what Jesus says in this verse?
 4. Read John 12:47-48. Ultimately, what (or who) determines our "judgment"? Why should this fact motivate us to share our faith in Christ more aggressively?

e. Thursday:

- i. Read the focal passage, John 12:27-36, again. Meditate on verses 32-34.
- ii. Jesus uses the euphemism "lifted up" several times in John. Read John 3:14 & 8:28. But just in case anyone might think He is referring to the ascension (Acts 1:9), how does John clarify the meaning?
- iii. What does Jesus mean when He says that He "will draw all people to myself"?
 1. How do we know that Jesus did not expect that everyone was going to accept His precious gift (see John 5:28-29 and 17:12, 20 & 24)?
 2. Rather than trying to promote "universalism," if you go back to where this dialogue began in verses 20-22, what might you conclude Jesus means by "all men"?
- iv. What does the response of the people reveal about what they are still expecting from Jesus (John 12:13-15)?

1. Read the following Old Testament passages: Psalm 72:17, Isaiah 9:6-7, and Ezekiel 37:26-28. Do you see why the crowd might have felt justified in their assertion?
2. How do we understand and explain such passages today (Acts 1:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and Hebrews 9:27-28)?

f. *Friday:*

- i. Jesus concludes this focal passage by discussing light and darkness in verses 35-36. Spend time meditating on these verses, then write a paraphrase that captures your understanding of what Jesus is saying.
- ii. Light and darkness are frequent topics in the Bible. Read these passages and describe the difference between light and darkness captured by each passage: Isaian 9:2, John 1:4-5 & 9, Acts 26:18, Romans 13:12-14,
- iii. 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 5:8-11, Ephesians 6:12-13, Colossians 1:12-14, 1 John 1:5-7, and 1 John 2:8-11.

g. *Saturday:*

- i. Read John 12:27-36 one more time. By now, it should be very familiar, so take your time and meditate on what it says, considering its applications in your own life.
- ii. Verse 36 ends with a very sad comment: “Jesus left and hid himself from them.” In one sense or another, this statement is going to be true for all who do not accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Do you think you are doing all you can to help minimize the number facing such a fate?

4. Application:

- a. None of us can ever find ourselves in the situation Jesus faced in John 12:27-28. Still, when we face trials, suffering, or persecution, we can look to His response in these verses and see that there are really only two possible responses to any such situation: “Father, save me” or “Father, glorify Your name.” If we pray the latter, He may, in fact, answer the first prayer as a way of glorifying His name. However, if we always pray only for relief in times of trouble, what does it say about how seriously we take verses like John 15:20, Matthew 5:11, 16:24, 24:9, and especially 22:37?
- b. If, by “all people” in verse 32, Jesus is referring to expanding His offer of salvation beyond just the Jews, then we should ask ourselves what it would look like if we were to fully embrace this “widening.” Jesus said He had “other sheep” from other pens (John 10:16 NIV) who needed to be brought into the flock. Are we, individually and collectively, doing all we can to ensure that they have the opportunity to “become children of light”?

5. Prayer Points:

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications – Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19