

WEEK I // DAY 5

Read John 12:27-36. The interaction we see here is just before the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. These are the days leading up to Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. These moments are the last in Jesus' earthly life. When Jesus speaks, His words seem to carry extra weight from our perspective. We know what His audience didn't know; that these were His last days before His great trial, before He would experience the culmination of WHY He came to earth. What does Jesus say here? Let's unpack it.

First, Jesus expresses the same kind of hesitation about His coming death that He expressed in the Garden of Gethsemane. But just as He did in the garden, Jesus, the Son, humbly and obediently accepts His role in the great rescue plan that God had planned all along. Amazingly, God the Father audibly affirms Jesus' obedience in a voice that some in the crowd could even make out; those who couldn't make it out were blinded by their disbelief.

Next, Jesus refers to the victory over sin and death that His crucifixion and resurrection would achieve. The people, who had a misguided belief of what the Messiah's purpose would be, pushed back on Jesus' claims. They expected the Messiah to be a political ruler. We know that is not what Jesus' Kingdom would look like. Which sets up this powerful plea from Jesus that we see in verses 35-36.

In vs. 35, Jesus once again identifies Himself as "the light." What does He mean? He's not talking about LITERAL light. He's not saying, "Hey, I shine like an actual flashlight." He's using the metaphor of light to speak of the way that He shines the light of God's grace and goodness in an evil world. His warning to "walk in the light" while the light was still there was Him urging those who did not believe in Him to see Him for who He was: the Son of God come to save the world.

There is a powerful truth here in vs. 35. Jesus says that without the light of Christ, we are lost. We have lost our way. What a profound statement this is. We can think we have the answers. We can think we have a plan. We can think that our efforts are enough to navigate this life. But without Jesus, we are lost. Lost in our sin. Lost in our limited understanding of the future. Lost in our shortcomings. Only by knowing Jesus and living through Him can we truly walk in the light. So the question is, are you following Jesus in such a way as to experience the light that only He can offer?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Describe your relationship with Jesus. Are you a "child of light"?
2. How has knowing Jesus enabled you to walk through life while seeing clearly (as opposed to walking in spiritual darkness)?
3. How is your life being used by God to spread the light of His love to others all around you?
4. Go to God in prayer, bringing to Him any of your shortcomings or failures. Trust Him to shine His light of love and grace into your life, making you more like Him and giving you the strength to represent Him in all that you do.