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The Father and the Son

Gospel of John, Part XLIV

John 12:37-50

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Introduction

II. Jesus' Summary of His Preaching

A. Who am I? (44-45 cf. 5:19-23; 8:58)

Jesus' first assertion is that to *believe in Him is not simply to believe in Him but to believe in the Father who sent Him*. The Father and the Son are _____ . As Jesus declared earlier in John 5:19ff –

“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Jesus' second assertion is equally remarkable. *And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me*. To observe Jesus in action was to observe the Father in action. Jesus is one with the Father. There is no gulf between Jesus and the Father. The Father and the Son are _____ .

So who is Jesus? Jesus is Almighty God come in human flesh. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (1:1,14 cf. Heb 1:3).

B. Why have I come? (46-47 cf. 3:16-21)

The purpose of Jesus' earthly ministry was to rescue those who dwelt in darkness and who were subject to the judgment of God. Jesus came to save the world. Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has dawned... Thus says God the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: ‘I, the Lord, have called You [My Servant] in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images... It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise

up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Is 9:2; 42:5-8; 49:6)

Jesus’ words in verses 46-47 reflect what he declared earlier to Nicodemus (3:16-21):
“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

He who does not believe in Jesus *is condemned already*. He abides in darkness; he is guilty; he stands condemned. Salvation comes only through Jesus.

Jesus is the _____. We can be the _____; we can reflect His light. But we are not the source of light. Apart from the brightness of the sun, the moon is a dark place. So too, apart from Jesus, the world is a dark place. The English poet T.S. Eliot wrote, *“The World is trying to experiment with attempting to form a civilized but non-Christian mentality. The experiment will fail; but we must be very patient in awaiting its collapse; meanwhile redeeming the time: so that the Faith may be preserved alive through the dark ages before us; to renew and rebuild civilization, and save the World from suicide.”*

C. Why must you listen to Me? (48-50 cf. 8:25-29)

Just as *to believe in Jesus was to believe in the Father, to see Him was to see the Father, so now to hear Him was to hear the Father*. Jesus spoke directly from the Father. The Father gave words to Jesus; Jesus in turn gave those words to His contemporaries. And these words contained the promise of everlasting life. Hence, to reject Jesus’ words is to reject the words of _____. Remember Jesus’ words in John 8:25-29:

Then they said to Him, “Who are You?”

And Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”

They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.

Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

III. Conclusion