INTRODUCTION

- The previous 11 chapters covered the entire 3 year ministry of the Lord. The next 10 chapters deal with the final week, which address Jesus instructing His disciples, leaving them with numerous promises including them doing greater works than Him, of the Holy Spirit’s soon coming, of abundant life, and of abiding peace.

- In this chapter, Jesus gets His feet washed, He strolls into Jerusalem seated on a donkey to fulfill scripture, He responds to hearing about some Greeks looking to chat with Him, the crowd is wondering about Him, He foretells His own death, and He performed more signs among the people – yet many still chose not to believe in Him.

**Passage** 12:1-8. Jesus Has His Feet Washed Twice by Women

- Early in His ministry: In Galilee (Luke 7)
  - In Bethany (Mat, Mk, John)
- End of His Ministry: A House of Simon the Pharisee
  - House of Simon the Leper
- Unnamed woman was a known sinner who got saved
- Simon was offended
- Woman was Mary, noble & saved sister of Lazarus
- Anointed head & feet with oil
- Simon was offended

  - Both these women “got it” – they knew who Jesus really was
  - Simon the Pharisee and Judas “missed it”

**Passage** 12:9-11. Many Chose to Believe By Sight

- v11. Another large crowd gathered, and many believed on Jesus after hearing about Lazarus’ resurrection.
- Recall John 11:45 where many believed after witnessing Lazarus’ resurrection (also of John 7:31)
- BUT recall the Samaritans believed in Christ after they heard Him, and not after they saw something (whose faith would be stronger?) (John 4:39-41)
- Supernatural miracles definitely had a purpose to turn heads and hearts toward Christ – but in the end, people believe what they want to believe.

**Passage** 12:12-26. Jesus Highlights a Paradox of Our Faith

- v25. We must hate our earthly life to gain eternal life. “Hate” is same Greek word used in Luke 14:26 to show our devotion to Christ (Hate Mom & Dad). Other Paradoxes of Scripture:
  - We must scatter to increase. Prov 11:24
  - To be exalted we must be humble. Mt 23:12
  - The last shall be 1st, the 1st last. Mt 20:16
  - We must give to receive. Lk 6:38
  - To save our life, we must lose it. Lk 17:33
  - To be wise we must become fools. 1Cor 3:18
  - We must die to live. 2Cor 6:4, 8-10

**Passage** 12:27-32. Jesus Will Draw ALL Men to Himself

- v27. Even Jesus experienced trouble praying. Thus, why should we expect an easy time at it, but pray we must
- v28-29. A heavenly voice confirms that God’s name is glorified and will be glorified through Christ.
  - How can we glorify God’s name?
- v31. Satan, “the ruler of this world” will eventually relinquish his hold on the world as revealed in Rev 20. This is the 1st of 3 incidences that Jesus refers to Satan as “ruler/prince of this world” (see 14:30; 16:11)
- v32. Does “Draw ALL Men” mean “ALL Elect” or “ALL Elect and Non-Elect”? Actually, it is quite subjective depending on one’s biased leaning. We have to consider the wider context.
  - What about John 6:44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day?”
- John 6:44 is different context than 12:32. God does the drawing in 6:44 based on fulfilled prophecy of people willingly hearing and heeding the good news (see vs 6:45), but Jesus does the drawing in 12:32 of presumably ALL people groups consisting of Gentiles and Jews. After all, who put Jesus on the cross? Was it the Elect or the non-Elect or both?

**Passage** 12:33-38. Many Chose Not to Believe On What They Saw

- v34. The crowd questioned Jesus about His claim of being the “Son of Man” who “must be crucified” – This claim made no sense to them. They thought the Son of Man was to come in Military Power to deliver them from Roman conquest, and not in Spiritual Power to be delivered from sin.
- vv35-36. “While you have the Light, believe in the Light...” – Jesus was asking the crowd, who consisted of both Elect and non-Elect to make a choice – basically, “today is the day of salvation” so take advantage of it.
  - What prevents people from making the right choice?
  - In the end, can any lost soul put the blame on anything or anyone other than themselves?
- v37. Though Jesus worked “many signs” before them to confirm His mission, yet they chose not to believe.

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**The Back Pew**

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The Point of No Return

Can someone reach a point of no return where they seal their fate for HELL? Apparently YES. Here are some supporting passages:

- Romans 1:24 Therefore God delivered them over in the cravings of their hearts to sexual impurity…
- Romans 1:28 “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind…”
- 1Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
- 2Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- Hebrew 6:4-6 “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance …”

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Can we tell if someone is unsaveable? Not really. We can make assumptions based on behavior and act accordingly (e.g., “don’t cast pearls before swine”)
- We can’t even tell the difference between an unsaved person and a backslidden Christian. Even the Apostles were duped by Judas, Paul was duped by Demas, and John was duped by those who “went out from us”
- We must be like the Apostles and assume that everyone we come across is saveable, and be a bold witness to them

NEXT WEEK: John 13:1-50. This chapter deals with the Last Supper, washing the Apostles’ feet, Judas’ betrayal, and the delivery of a new commandment to love one another

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

Frustrated over debating theology, Cal decided to make a dramatic CALVINST object lesson with Greg.