

Episode #1-49 – The Secret Believers

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

I. In John 12, the Lord has arrived at Jerusalem for the Passover, and we begin to trace out the events of the last few days before His death on the cross. Now, we read of the story of the Greeks who wanted to see the Lord. They recruited some of the disciples to bring their request to Him. Yet the Lord spoke to them of the timetable He had to follow.

II. John 12:20-36. The request of the Greeks.

- A. V.34. They had just heard a portion of the Old Testament (common during feasts,) probably Ps. 89:29 or 92:6. Had the mistaken idea that Christ (Messiah) had to remain for the eon. No statement in the Bible says Messiah couldn't leave earth once He came to it, and He does not have to remain for every moment of the kingdom. They decided the "Son of Man" must be different from Messiah! Two Messiah idea.
- B. V.35. This is not a direct answer. He is the light, and He is going away, not remaining for the eon. They should walk while they have the light, lest darkness overtake them. One walking in darkness does not know where he is going-no electricity
- C. V.36. They should believe in the light while they have it, and so become sons of light. (Many did in Acts.) He leaves and hides from them. This concludes the matter of the Greeks, as they got no interview with the Lord. The time was not right, and they had no permission to come. He did not grant disciples' request. Did Philip really think having Andrew with him would make the Lord listen to him?

III. John 12:37-41. The unbelieving.

- A. V.37. A sign, no matter how miraculous, cannot "make" people believe. The Lord asks us to believe without seeing, which we must do to please Him.
- B. V.38. Their unbelief fulfilled a prophecy, Isaiah 53:1. Arm=power, could refer to the Lord or His signs. They did not believe, even though they saw His arm!
- C. V.39. When they would not believe the signs they became unable to believe at all. This again fulfills a prophecy, Isaiah 6:9-10, the prophecy most often quoted in the New Testament.
- D. V.40. This prophecy is quoted at crisis moments. The crisis here was a change for these men: formerly, they could have believed, now, they are blinded and hardened. They were hardened only after they rejected an honest offer of salvation. They did not refuse to believe because they couldn't help it!
- E. V.41. "His glory" = "Him," II Cor. 4:6. Isaiah saw the Yahweh of the Old Testament, Who is the Jesus Christ of the New.

IV. John 12:42-50. The Son and the Father.

- A. V.42. Some rulers believe, but secretly because of the Jews. Being cast out of synagogue would be very bad!
- B. V.43. Their fear of the Pharisees was an excuse, since many of His followers were already excommunicated, yet with the Lord they were not lacking for care. The truth of their secrecy: they loved men's praise more than God's. Let us not do the same!
- C. V.44. To believe in Him is to believe in God. They refused to acknowledge God by refusing to acknowledge their belief in Him.

- D. V.45. Sees=*theoreo*, behold, gaze upon, consider, give heed. To consider Christ is to consider God. Remember the purpose of John: that we believe this of Jesus.
- E. V.46. Those who abode in His light are no longer in darkness. What an opportunity! Sad that they did not take it because of the fear of men, and they loved their praise.
- F. V.47. Judge=*to determine what is right, and then set it right*. This will happen when the Lord takes control of the government. He did not come this time to do this, but to save the very world system we live in.
- G. V.48. The rejecters did not get away with it. The words He spoke will set them right. Phil. 2:10-11. All will bow, but for some it will be too late.
- H. V.49. Sent=*pempo*, sent from earth to heaven. With the Father's command. There was no difference between His words and the Father's words if He had been there.
- I. V.50. His command is eonian life to the one who obeys it. All He speaks, down to the very words, are as the Father commanded Him. Let us too acknowledge that the words we read are indeed the very words of God!

VI. Conclusion: The time had not come for the Lord to minister to the Greeks. That time would come in Acts. Signs cannot make people believe. The Lord hardened those who saw the signs and refused to believe. This was all in accordance with prophecy. Many of the rulers were secret believers because they did not want to lose the praise of men. To believe in the Lord is to believe in His Father. He did not come to set things right the first time, but all who rejected Him will be set right one day. To obey His words is eonian life. Let us all hear, obey, and believe!