

The Ultimate Tragedy

John 8:21-30

21 Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come."

22 So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?"

23 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

25 Then they said to Him, "Who are You?"

And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. 26 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."

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

28 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. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." 30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. NKJV

God is not required to continue to convert a rebellious people.

These Jews have rebelled against God for generations. They have killed the prophets that God has sent to them to tell them of their sinful ways.

And now they will put the very Son of God to death. That is what Jesus is referring to in this passage. His death and His return to the Father in heaven.

- I. The end of the day of grace.
 - A. **Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come."**
 - B. Jesus knew that His time was short.
 1. He knew that the wickedness of the Jews was coming to a climax and would result in the ultimate sin, the putting to death of God's only Begotten Son.
 2. And although Jesus would suffer immeasurably, yet He gladly would do that knowing what that would accomplish, and how it would restore Him to His Father's side in heaven.
 - a. Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the

throne of God. NKJV

b. John 17:4-5 (NKJV)4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

3. That is what He meant when He said, **Where I go you cannot come**

a. He would say something similar to the disciples.

b. John 13:36 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, **but you shall follow Me afterward.**" NKJV

C. **You will seek Me**, Jesus said.

1. They had claimed to be seeking the Messiah for generations, but yet when He came to them, they rejected Him.

2. But He could also mean that later when many of them were converted and realized that Jesus was the true Messiah that they would realize what they had done.

3. This is a recurrent theme in the Gospel of John

a. John 7:33-34 "I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come." NKJV

b. It was as if Jesus was telling them that they were going to throw away their last chance.

II. They question Jesus.

A. 22 **So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?"**

B. This is the second of three questions they have Jesus.

1. John 8:19 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" NKJV

a. Jesus has called his father as his witness so they asked where is your father?

b. Maybe there is more to this than we had thought.

c. Later on when Jesus questions them concerning their father, they say we are not born of fornication, maybe indicating that they understood the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

2. 25 Then they said to Him, "Who are You?"

a. We will deal with this question in a moment.

C. **Will he kill himself**

1. To the Jews suicide was the ultimate sin for which the lower parts of the hell were reserved.
2. Here they are questioning his sanity.
3. By asking this question they cast doubt upon who Jesus is.

III. **You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.**

A. Jesus was showing them that he was more than a mere human.

B. Jesus used similar language when he spoke to Nicodemus.

1. John 3:12-13 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. NKJV

C. Their response to this is to ask, **Who are you?**

1. They knew exactly who he claimed to be but by asking this question they cast doubt upon what he said.
2. But this is the ultimate question, who is Jesus.
3. Our life depends upon our answer.
 - a. It is amazing that of all the things you learn in life, that who Jesus is would be the ultimate question.
 - b. We can be wrong about a thousand things and it does not make that much of a difference, but could be wrong about who Jesus is has eternal consequences.

IV. **You will die in your sin**

A. We noticed that three times Jesus says this phrase.

1. When you see something repeated in the Scriptures, understand that it is for emphasis.
2. Jesus is telling them that this is sure.
3. There is no escaping it.
4. This is why many of the cults are in such danger.
 - a. Most of the cults do not believe that Jesus was who he claimed to be.

- b. They do not believe that he had a unique relationship with the Father.
 - c. Some do not believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus.
 - d. Others do not believe in the blood atonement.
 - e. Most of them believe that Jesus is a created being.
 - f. All of them in one way or another minimize the person of Jesus.
 - g. As I pointed out to one individual this verse, they looked at me in this belief.
 - h. They could not understand how that they can live such a good life, serve Jehovah, and yet die in their sins.
- B. What does he mean?
1. There may be some question as to the exact nature of what he is saying, but there is little doubt that it sounds very bad.
 2. John 3:18 "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.
 3. John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
 4. Pr 8:36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."
 5. Ac 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 6. Heb 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

What about you this morning. If you were to die today, you die in your sins?

Maybe you have heard this over and over again and have never acted on it.

Don't think that God is required to continue to pursue you.

These people had only a short time remaining. Maybe you do too.

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