

Jesus the Way
John 12:44-50

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. 46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak." NKJV

John Godfrey Saxe's (1816-1887) version of the famous Indian legend,

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind.

The *First* approach'd the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

The *Second*, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, -"Ho! what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"

The *Third* approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake!"

The *Fourth* reached out his eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he,

"'Tis clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree!"

The *Fifth*, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The *Sixth* no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Then, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

MORAL.

So oft in theologic wars,
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
*And prate about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!*

http://www.noogenesis.com/pineapple/blind_men_elephant.html

What this story was meant to convey is that no one person can have the truth and no one person can know about God. But there is a real folly in the story. That is not that the blind men were all right but that they were all wrong. The problem is not that they would not listen to each other in order to find out the true nature of the elephant but that they were blind. Blind people will always have an obscured vision of what truth is and what God is like.

Jesus on the other had claimed that He was not blind but that He had perfect knowledge of God and that only through Him would others be able to come to that same knowledge.

I. The Way to Faith in God v-44

A. Does correct faith matter.

1. It doesn't make any difference which medicine you take as long as you believe.
2. It doesn't make any difference which road you take as long as you believe.

B. Others say that it is not possible to know for sure.

1. As the blind men and the elephant supposedly no one knows God.
2. But Jesus was not blind.
3. He is the Son of God and demonstrated that with many infallible proofs.

C. To believe in Jesus is to believe in the one true God.

1. Jesus claimed exclusivity with God.
2. Jn 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

D. Those that knew Him died for that faith rather than deny it.

1. John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
2. Heb 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person
3. 1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.
4. Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

II. The Way to See God v-45

- A. No one has ever seen God the Father face to face.
 - 1. Jn 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.
 - 2. John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
 - 3. Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
 - a. He has revealed Himself to us in His Word, through the prophets.
 - b. But now we have a better revelation in His Son.
- B. The word "see" here used by John has more the idea of "to perceive, or understand."
 - 1. 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
 - 2. John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
 - 3. John 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 25 "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.
 - 4. Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
 - 5. Colossians 2:3 in whom (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

III. The Way Out of Darkness v-46

- A. 2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God

in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. Jesus says that those who will not believe in Him will remain, abide, in darkness.

1. Man's condition is blindness and darkness.

2. It is only through Jesus Christ that we have the light we need to see.

IV. The Way out of Judgment v-47-48

A. Jesus did not come to judge mankind when He came the first time.

1. He came to give us the good news that forgiveness was available through His sacrifice.

B. That did not mean that they would not be judged; the sin of everyone will be judged.

1. It was His words that would condemn them.

2. Jesus had said that the people of Sodom would rise in judgment against the people of His day.

3. But people do not need to go to judgment to be condemned for "he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Jn 3:18

V. The Way to God's Commandments and Everlasting Life v-49-50

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