# The Gospel of John

Chapter 12, Verses 29-50

#### General Introduction

- one of the **four gospels**, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life
- one of the *five Johannine books*, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to have been written
- written in Greek, primarily to those who already believed in Christ, including both Jews and Gentiles

- Prolog: the Word became flesh (1:1-18)
- John the Baptist introduced Jesus, Jesus performed many signs, and Jesus' ministry soon surpassed John's (1:19-3:36).
- Retreating to Galilee, Jesus passed through Samaria where he was recognized as the Savior of the World. (Chapter 4).
- In Galilee crowds followed Jesus, but for the wrong reasons, and they finally could not accept his teaching. All but the 12 disciples turned away from him (Chapter 6).

- The Jews persecuted and hated Jesus, because he healed on the Sabbath and called God his father. (Chapter 5)
- Although Jesus knew the Jews there were plotting to kill him, he came to Jerusalem for the <u>Feast of Tabernacles</u>, and began to teach openly. By the end of Chapter 8, Jesus was obliged to hide himself from those who would throw stones at him (Chapters 7 & 8)

- Jesus found and gave sight to a <u>man blind from birth</u>. The man believed and worshipped Jesus. The Pharisees, by contrast, remained spiritually blind. (Chapter 9)
- Jesus described himself as the "<u>door of the sheep</u>" and "<u>the</u> <u>good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep</u>." The Pharisees did not believe him, he said, because they were not his sheep. Once again they picked up stones to throw at him. So Jesus crossed the Jordan to where John had been baptizing at first and many believe in him there. (Chapter 10)

- Despite the danger, Jesus returned to Judea. When he raised Lazarus from the dead, many of the Jews believed in him. But some reported what Jesus had done to the Pharisees, who gathered the Council, which from that time forward plotted Jesus' death. (Chapter 11)
- Despite objections from Judas Iscariot, Mary anointed Jesus with expensive ointment. Because of the raising of Lazarus, many were attracted to Jesus, just as the Council feared, so they plotted to kill Jesus and Lazarus as well. (12:1-11)

## Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- As the crowds cheered, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. (12:12-13)
- His disciples would later remember that this was in fulfillment of prophesy (12:14-16)
- Those who had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead continued to bear witness. (12:17)
- The Council saw all of this as a dangerous trend. (12:18-19)
- Even some Greeks were coming to see Jesus (12:20-22)

## Review (Last Week's Lesson)

- Jesus knew all of these things marked the beginning of the end of his earthly ministry. (12:23)
- He saw his own death as necessary and beneficial. (12:24-25)
- He said that his servants would follow him, and that the Father would honor them for this. (12:26)
- Despite all of this, Jesus was troubled. (12:27)
- He nevertheless preferred God's glory to his own life, and God honored him for this. (12:28)

- 12:29すると、そこに立っていた群衆がこれを聞いて、「雷がなったのだ」と言い、ほかの人たちは、「御 使が彼に話しかけたのだ」と言った。
- 12:30イエスは答えて言われた、「この声があったのは、わたしのためではなく、あなたがたのためである。
- 12:31今はこの世がさばかれる時である。今こそこの世の君は追い出されるであろう。

**12:32**そして、わたしがこの地から上げられる時には、 すべての人をわたしのところに引きよせるであろ う」。

12:33イエスはこう言って、自分がどんな死に方で死のうとしていたかを、お示しになったのである。

- <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
- <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.
- <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.
- <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

<sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

#### John 12:29

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Q. Heard what?

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- Q. Heard what?
- A. God's voice from heaven saying, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." (v. 28)

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Q. What crowd?

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- Q. What crowd?
- A. Uncertain: Jews who saw Jesus raise Lazarus (v. 17), those who had heard about this (v. 18), Pharisees (v. 19), Greeks (v. 20), Andrew and Philip (vv. 21-22), ...

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The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

- In any case, all or most of them seem to have heard a noise that sounded like thunder.
- And some understood this to have been the voice of an angel, speaking to Jesus.

#### John 12:30

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 Jesus himself clearly heard a voice, speaking words which John, then or later, came to understand and record for us in Verse 28 --- i.e. "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

 By saying that the voice came, not for his own sake, but for the sake of others, Jesus implied that some besides himself could hear and understand what the voice said

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 And what the voice had said was that God would continue the process of self-glorification which had already begun (v. 28), and that this process would be completed in the appointed hour for which Jesus had come (v. 27).

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- Those with "ears to hear" could understand that the voice was God giving testimony regarding his son Jesus --- that Jesus was about to do something to glorify God his father.
- Now, as then, not everyone comprehends God's speech.

#### John 12:31

今はこの世がさばかれる時である。今こそこの世の君は追い出されるであろう。

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

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 Jesus is still speaking, explaining more about the meaning of the words which God, for their sake, has spoken from heaven.

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• This hour for which Jesus has come (v. 27) is the judgment of this world, in which those who reject the salvation that is offered by the Son shall condemn themselves (c.f. 3:18).

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- This hour for which Jesus has come (v. 27) is the judgment of this world, in which those who reject the salvation that is offered by the Son shall condemn themselves (c.f. 3:18).
- This, then, is the beginning of the end of the rule of Satan.

そして、わたしがこの地から上げられる時には、すべての人をわたしのところに引きよせるであろう」。

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

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 Here "all people" is probably a figure of speech meaning both Jew and Gentile and etc.

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 John confirms what we have already supposed, that in speaking of his being "lifted up" Jesus means to describe the manner of his own death.

12:34すると群衆はイエスにむかって言った、「わたしたちは律法によって、キリストはいつまでも生きておいでになるのだ、と聞いていました。それだのに、どうして人の子は上げられねばならないと、言われるのですか。その人の子とは、だれのことですか」。

12:35そこでイエスは彼らに言われた、「もうしばらくの間、光はあなたがたと一緒にここにある。光がある間に歩いて、やみに追いつかれないようにしなさい。やみの中を歩く者は、自分がどこへ行くのかわかっていない。

12:36光のある間に、光の子となるために、光を信じなさい」。イエスはこれらのことを話してから、そこを立ち去って、彼らから身をお隠しになった。

<sup>34</sup> So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

<sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

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• These people have seemingly understood that Jesus was speaking of his own death (c.f. v. 33) or his removal from this world by some other means, both of which are true.

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• But they find this, his lifting up, hard to reconcile with the idea that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the son of David who, they expected, would sit on David's throne forever.

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- So when Jesus describes himself as the Son of Man who must be lifted up, what does he mean?
- If not "the Christ," then what other "Son of Man" is he?

### Comment

- The problem that the Jews have is that they search their scriptures for a light to illumine Christ, when Christ is the light which illumines their scriptures.
- Consequently what they are doing is like trying to read and understand their scriptures "in the dark."

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<u>So Jesus said to them</u>, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

 Jesus is responding to their Biblical question, regarding how he can be at once the Messiah and the Son of Man who will be lifted up.

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- Jesus refers to himself as the light, as indeed John refers to Jesus throughout his gospel and all the Johannine books.
- He urges them to believe in him, while they still may.

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So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, <u>lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going</u>.

 Otherwise this opportunity may pass and they may remain stuck in the darkness --- never finding Jesus again.

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• Q. Is he referring only to the time prior to his ascension?

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- Q. Is he referring only to the time prior to his ascension?
- A. No. Almost certainly he is speaking more generally, about the limited time each man has to believe the gospel.

光のある間に、光の子となるために、光を信じなさい」。イエスはこれらのことを話してから、そこを立ち去って、彼らから身をお隠しになった。

While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

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- He remains hidden from us in this way.

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• Therefore it is probably wrong to take Jesus meaning here as referring to his incarnate, physical presence.

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- He probably means to say --- to us all --- believe in me while you still have the chance!

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Q. What are sons of light?

- Q. What are sons of light?
- A. Christians --- regenerated, sanctified, indwelled by God the Holy Spirit.

**12:37**このように多くのしるしを彼らの前でなさったが、彼らはイエスを信じなかった。

12:38それは、預言者イザヤの次の言葉が成就するためである、「主よ、わたしたちの説くところを、だれが信じたでしょうか。また、主のみ腕はだれに示されたでしょうか」。

12:39こういうわけで、彼らは信じることができなかった。イザヤはまた、こうも言った、

- 12:40「神は彼らの目をくらまし、心をかたくなになさった。それは、彼らが目で見ず、心で悟らず、悔い改めていやされることがないためである」。
- **12:41**イザヤがこう言ったのは、イエスの栄光を見たからであって、イエスのことを語ったのである。
- 12:42しかし、役人たちの中にも、イエスを信じた者が多かったが、パリサイ人をはばかって、告白はしなかった。会堂から追い出されるのを恐れていたのである。

**12:43**彼らは神のほまれよりも、人のほまれを好んだからである。

- <sup>37</sup> Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,
- <sup>38</sup> so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"
- <sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,
- <sup>40</sup> "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

- <sup>41</sup> Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.
- <sup>42</sup> Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;
- <sup>43</sup> for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

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- Q. Who are they?
- A. The Jews --- the vast majority of them had, so far, rejected Jesus, even though he had done many signs.
- Verses 37-43 explain why this is the case.

それは、預言者イザヤの次の言葉が成就するためである、「主よ、 わたしたちの説くところを、だれが信じたでしょうか。また、主 のみ腕はだれに示されたでしょうか」。

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- First of all, the failure of the Jews to accept Jesus, must not be seen as something unusual or surprising.
  - It was typical of how Israel had always responded.

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so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

- First of all, the failure of the Jews to accept Jesus, must not be seen as something unusual or surprising.
  - It was typical of how Israel had always responded.
  - And it was foreseen by Isaiah (Isa. 53:1)

こういうわけで、彼らは信じることができなかった。イザヤはまた、こうも言った、

Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

• The Jews, for the most part, were not able to believe.

「神は彼らの目をくらまし、心をかたくなになさった。それは、 彼らが目で見ず、心で悟らず、悔い改めていやされることがない ためである」。

"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

• As do several New Testament authors, John quotes from Isaiah 6:10 to help explain the inability of Jews to accept Christ when he came.

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"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them."

- As do several New Testament authors, John quotes from Isaiah 6:10 to help explain the inability of Jews to accept Christ when he came.
- Their inability was punishment for past sin and unbelief.

イザヤがこう言ったのは、イエスの栄光を見たからであって、イエスのことを語ったのである。

Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

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Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

• The point here is just to clarify that what God showed to Isaiah regarding the general inability of the Jews to see God's glory was specifically and supremely true of Christ.

しかし、役人たちの中にも、イエスを信じた者が多かったが、パリサイ人をはばかって、告白はしなかった。会堂から追い出されるのを恐れていたのである。

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

しかし、役人たちの中にも、イエスを信じた者が多かったが、パリサイ人をはばかって、告白はしなかった。会堂から追い出されるのを恐れていたのである。

<u>Nevertheless</u>, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

 Despite the blindness of the Jews in general and of their leaders in particular, there were nevertheless some, even of their leaders, who believed in Jesus. しかし、役人たちの中にも、イエスを信じた者が多かったが、パリサイ人をはばかって、告白はしなかった。会堂から追い出されるのを恐れていたのである。

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, <u>but for fear</u> of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;

 However the faith of these Jewish believers was weak and imperfect, as evidenced by the fact that they were still afraid of being put out of the synagogue. 彼らは神のほまれよりも、人のほまれを好んだからである。

for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

彼らは神のほまれよりも、人のほまれを好んだからである。

for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

 Their fear of being put out of the synagogue was not a fear of God but of man.

- **12:44**イエスは大声で言われた、「わたしを信じる者は、わたしを信じるのではなく、わたしをつかわされたかたを信じるのであり、
- **12:45**また、わたしを見る者は、わたしをつかわされたかたを見るのである。
- 12:46わたしは光としてこの世にきた。それは、わたしを信じる者が、やみのうちにとどまらないようになるためである。

**12:47**たとい、わたしの言うことを聞いてそれを守らない人があっても、わたしはその人をさばかない。わたしがきたのは、この世をさばくためではなく、この世を救うためである。

12:48わたしを捨てて、わたしの言葉を受けいれない 人には、その人をさばくものがある。わたしの語っ たその言葉が、終りの日にその人をさばくであろう。

12:49わたしは自分から語ったのではなく、わたしを つかわされた父ご自身が、わたしの言うべきこと、 語るべきことをお命じになったのである。

**12:50**わたしは、この命令が永遠の命であることを知っている。それゆえに、わたしが語っていることは、わたしの父がわたしに仰せになったことを、そのまま語っているのである」。

- <sup>44</sup> And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.
- <sup>45</sup> And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.
- <sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.
- <sup>47</sup> If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

- <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.
- <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment---what to say and what to speak.
- <sup>50</sup> And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

## Comment

• These last seven verses (vv 44-50) are a kind of summary of Jesus' teachings which have already been given in the first 12 chapters.

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And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.

• First of all, Jesus makes it plain that he did not come to set himself beside the God of Israel.

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And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.

- First of all, Jesus makes it plain that he did not come to set himself beside the God of Israel.
- It was the God of Israel who sent Jesus, and first to Israel.

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And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me.

- First of all, Jesus makes it plain that he did not come to set himself beside the God of Israel.
- It was the God of Israel who sent Jesus, and first to Israel.
- Faith in Jesus is faith in the God of Israel.

また、わたしを見る者は、わたしをつかわされたかたを見るのである。

And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

また、わたしを見る者は、わたしをつかわされたかたを見るのである。

And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

 Jesus does not obscure the God of Israel, as he was at first known through the patriarchs, prophets, priests, and kings. また、わたしを見る者は、わたしをつかわされたかたを見るのである。

And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

- Jesus does not obscure the God of Israel, as he was at first known through the patriarchs, prophets, priests, and kings.
- Rather, to see Jesus is to see God more clearly than he has ever been seen or otherwise can be seen by mortal man.

わたしは光としてこの世にきた。それは、わたしを信じる者が、やみのうちにとどまらないようになるためである。

I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

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I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

• Why was Jesus sent?

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I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

- Why was Jesus sent?
- He was sent because the world has long been in darkness, and so it remains, except for those who believe in Jesus.

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I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

- Why was Jesus sent?
- He was sent because the world has long been in darkness, and so it remains, except for those who believe in Jesus.
- Jesus came into the world so that we may have light.

たとい、わたしの言うことを聞いてそれを守らない人があっても、 わたしはその人をさばかない。わたしがきたのは、この世をさば くためではなく、この世を救うためである。

If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

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If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

- Jesus was sent down into the darkness in order to bring people up out of the darkness.
- Should they reject Jesus and prefer the darkness, well then they condemn themselves, but Jesus does not judge them.

わたしを捨てて、わたしの言葉を受けいれない人には、その人を さばくものがある。わたしの語ったその言葉が、終りの日にその 人をさばくであろう。

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

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The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

 Jesus is not himself the judge of those who reject his words. わたしを捨てて、わたしの言葉を受けいれない人には、その人を さばくものがある。わたしの語ったその言葉が、終りの日にその 人をさばくであろう。

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

- Jesus is not himself the judge of those who reject his words.
- However those who do reject Jesus words will be judged by his words on the last day.

わたしは自分から語ったのではなく、わたしをつかわされた父ご 自身が、わたしの言うべきこと、語るべきことをお命じになった のである。

For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment---what to say and what to speak.

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For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment---what to say and what to speak.

• The words which Jesus speaks are the words of God the Father who sent him.

わたしは、この命令が永遠の命であることを知っている。それゆ えに、わたしが語っていることは、わたしの父がわたしに仰せに なったことを、そのまま語っているのである」。

And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

To reject Jesus' words is to reject God and eternal life.