

“JUST DON’T QUIT”
John 12:27-36a
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INTRODUCTION

In John 12:23-26 John has shown us that Jesus’ primary purpose for coming into the world was to “fall into the ground and die” like a grain of wheat. Otherwise, He would bear no fruit. Then John shows us that Jesus’ followers must likewise have the purpose of going “all the way” with Christ—even if it means death. If one “loves his life” here and now, he will lose his life for eternity. One who serves Christ must follow Him wherever it may lead him, and Christ will take him with Himself wherever He Himself goes—all the way to Heaven. Such a life will result in the honor of the Father.

Here in John 12:27-36 we see that Jesus’ primary purpose is threatened by His great enemy. He is troubled and tempted to quit. However, not only does He not quit, but He renews His focus on His ultimate purpose and His Father also encourages Him in that pursuit.

The unsaved world neither can nor will understand or sympathize with Christ’s purpose. Nevertheless, Jesus reviews the reasons for His pursuit of His own death, and then He gives the reasons for others to have faith in Him.

Jesus would not stop short of His death on the Cross—He did not quit! You must not quit either.

- If you are His follower you must pursue Him even unto death
- If you are unsaved you must “seize the opportunity” and trust Him before it is forever too late!

JESUS DID NOT QUIT; YOU MUST NOT QUIT.

I. TROUBLED AND TEMPTED TO QUIT (27)

Recognize who is behind the pressure upon Jesus to quit—Satan (v. 31)

His soul (life) was not first troubled in the Garden of Gethsemane, but all during His life (Notice the perfect tense).

Different views of His question in v. 27. Also—save Him from or out of the hour.

II. RENEWAL OF DIVINE PURPOSE (27-29)

A. Glory of the Father’s name by death—purpose He came into the world

B. Praise from the Father—He has already glorified His name in His Son’s ministry (not merely at His Baptism and Transfiguration).

C. He will continue to glorify His name in His Son’s **death**.

The unsaved crowd does not understand what is happening—they do not have spiritual insight:

- They give a natural explanation to the event: thunder.
- They give an inferior supernatural explanation to the event: an angel has spoken.

III. REASONS FOR MOVING FORWARD (30-33)

Jesus here focuses upon **the death He must die (33)**.

A. He calls men to faith in Him (30)

He was not primarily the One who needed the encouragement of the divine voice; They needed that encouragement in order that

- They might continue to trust in and follow Him.
- Others might come to place their trust in Him

B. He condemns Unbelief (31)

The one who does not believe is condemned (3:16-18)

C. He defeats “the ruler of this world—the devil.

The devil is cast out; Christ not only takes away his followers and brings them to Himself, but He ultimately casts Satan into outer darkness.

All of this is as good as done because of the cross.

D. He “draws all men” to Himself—to salvation and to heaven (32)

Notice, lifted “up from the earth”—includes His ascension to Heaven

Also, no man can come on his own—He must “draw” him.

He assures that men will be saved, and that men from all over the world will be saved.

IV. REASONS FOR TRUST IN HIM (34-36)

A. The need to reject merely human interpretation of Scripture (34)

B. The need to “seize the moment”—while they have the Light (35)

C. The need to act before being overcome by the darkness (35)

Those walking in darkness do not know where they are going.

D. The need to become “sons of light” by having faith in the Light (36)

CONCLUSION

If Jesus had quit when His soul was troubled and tempted, we would all be lost forever!

THANK GOD THAT HE DID NOT QUIT BUT THAT HE FULFILLED THE FATHER’S PURPOSE AND BROUGHT GLORY TO THE FATHER’S NAME.

You have choices:

- *Trust in His sacrificial death and be saved—become a “son of light”.*
- *Reject Him and His work and be condemned and lost in darkness.*

- *Follow Him faithfully throughout life, and die with Him if necessary.*
- *Get discouraged and quit—give up and throw in the towel.*

What will it be for you?