"He Departed"

Intro: Here in our present text we read of the closing of the Lord’s public ministry at which point John the Beloved tells us of two groups of people and how they responded to Jesus. In applying this text to ourselves, we must carefully ____________ how it is that each one of us has come to personally respond to the ____________ ____________ Christ.

I. After ____________ told the people that He was to die by being lifted up and commanded that they believe in Him, and with the people turning against Him, refusing to believe in Him, “He ____________ and hid Himself ____________.”

A. Christ’s public ____________ to Israel was ____________ as His departing demonstrated.

II. Though it was before thousands that ____________ ____________ the sick, caused the lame to walk, opened blinded eyes, multiplied food, cast out demons, turned the water into wine, healed the lepers, ____________ the ____________, and was personally addressed by the Father from out of heaven, “________ were they not believing in Him!”

A. The phrase “yet they were not believing in Him” is in the imperfect tense which indicates that by and large the people had consistently and progressively shown a determined ____________ ____________ ____________ what His miraculous signs consistently and progressively proved: that He is the Son of God!

B. John the Beloved tells us that the ____________ of Jesus by His own countrymen was ____________, being spoken of by the prophet Isaiah. In Isaiah 53:1 the prophet cried out of the coming Christ saying, “Lord, _____ has believed our report_ And to ____________ has the arm of the LORD been revealed.”

C. In quoting from Isaiah __:__, John explained how it was that in full view of the Lord’s message and His miraculous signs that so few would believe: “_______ _______ _______ they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, ‘He has blinded their eyes, and He hardened their heart; lest they see with their eyes, and perceive with their heart, and be converted, and I heal them.’”

1. MacArthur writes, “Isreal’s rejection was not merely foreseen, it was by God’s sovereign design; it was a ____________ act on His part. ... When John quotes ‘he hath blinded their eyes ...’ he does not mean that blinding takes place without the will, or against the will of these people. ... These men chose evil. It was ______ own deliberate ________, their own fault.”

2. William Hendriksen wrote, “In order that the divine moral order, as decreed from eternity and as described by the prophets, might be fulfilled, the Jewish multitudes, through their own fault, failed to accept Christ by genuine faith. That divine order demands that those who ____________ harden themselves shall be _________ ____________. When Pharaoh hardens his heart, God carries out His plan with respect to him, and hardens his heart even more. ... _______ _______ _______ _________ ________.”

3. D.A. Carson wrote, “God’s judicial hardening is not presented as the capricious manipulation of an arbitrary potentate cursing morally neutral or even morally pure beings, but as a holy condemnation of a ____________ people who are condemned to do and be what they ____________ have chosen.”
D. John tells us why _______ would record such difficult truths: It is because he _______ _______ _______ that he spoke of Him in this way.

1. Many do not like these verses of Scripture finding them unacceptable (and I confess they are ____________), but I tell you that they are only difficult to us and unacceptable to some because _______ are a people of unclean lips and live among a people of ____________ lips!

E. Beloved! It was this hardening of hearts that _______ those who so joyously welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem ____ cry out for His crucifixion, leading to His humiliation and glorification, and _______ _______ _______!

1. Romans 11:19-20, “You will say then, ‘Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.’ _______ _______, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith.”

2. Even in their sin, and in _______ hardening the hearts of those who hardened their own hearts, He has rendered _______ unto Himself by bringing His only begotten Son to the cross that He might resurrect Him from the dead, and through His death and resurrection _______ _______ by grafting us into the vine!

III. Conversely, or in ____________ to those who did not believe “Nevertheless, many even of the ____________ ____________ in Him.”

A. F.F. Bruce wrote, “Among the ‘rulers’ who are now said to have ‘believed in Him’ Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus are to be reckoned; their secret ____________ ____________ itself in words and deeds of good will, but not in open confession.”

B. So it seems: how much better a testimony it would have been if the rulers faith would have been strong and mature whereby they would have confessed Christ before the Pharisees without fear of being put out of the synagogue. But even _______ _______ in fulfilling the divine plan of God for it was not within the will of God that they resist the Sanhedrin in crucifying Christ. You see, _______ is over all and ___ every _______, gracious and merciful God that He is!

Closing: As was said earlier, in applying this text to ourselves we must carefully consider how it is that each one of us has come to personally ____________ _______ the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a terrifying reality that those who willfully harden their hearts toward the truth of _______ might in return have their heart hardened by God Himself.

In light of this truth let us heed the cry of Isaiah 55:6-7,
6 _______ the LORD while He may be found; _______ upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And _____ _____ have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly ____________.”

And so we implore you and by Christ’s own words command you, “Walk while you have the light, that darkness may not overtake you; … While you have the light, ____________ in the light, in order that you may ____________ _______ of light” (John 12:35-36).