

“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, “Israel’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).