

What is “this hour” that Jesus was referring to in verses 23 and 27? The crucifixion

Verse 27 Why is Jesus’ heart troubled? His death would involve separation from His Father and bearing God’s wrath for the sins of the world.

- Anticipation of the brutal death that’s coming—that had to precede the glory—troubles Jesus deeply.
- The One who has never sinned, will now be made sin for us. He will carry ALL of the sins of mankind on the cross.
- The One who has never known one second of unbroken fellowship with his Father, and the fellowship that He has with the Father will, at least for a time, be broken.

Application: We read that Christ’s heart was troubled. Well, are our hearts ever troubled? What are we supposed to do in such circumstances? What are we to do when relatives die? When cancer strikes? When we lose our job? When life seems overwhelming?

We learn from the Master, who when His heart was troubled breathed this prayer, “Father, glorify your name.”

If I must lose my health, glorify Your name by my sickness.
If I must lose my wealth, glorify Your name by my poverty.
If I must lose my good name, glorify Your name by my humiliation.
If I must lose my life, glorify Your name by my death and send the resurrection.
This is not my choice but I know it is Yours. So I will embrace it.

Most of time we want the trial to end. We want to get out of the mess. Jesus, in the end, doesn’t ask to opt out of the plan. His chief concern is that the Father would be glorified by His perseverance through the trial.

Why is Jesus resolved to die? Jesus is determined to die for our salvation, to save us. But notice that Jesus does not give this as His chief reason. To glorify God is His chief end. Although His death is going to be ugly, He will not shrink from following whatever way the Father chooses to be glorified.

How is the Father glorified through the death of Jesus? Through Christ’s obedience, sin and death are conquered according to God’s plan and there is victory over Satan.

In verses 28-29 what is the purpose of the voice from heaven? To authenticate Jesus as God’s Son in a dramatic way. The people present cannot understand the words clearly, though Jesus can.

What is God communicating in verse 28? God has already glorified Himself through Jesus’ incarnation and ministry. He will now glorify Himself through Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension.

According to verse 29 how does the crowd respond to the audible voice of God? Everyone seems to have heard the same sounds, but not everyone “heard” them the same way. Those who reject Jesus as God’s Messiah do the expected—what unbelieving men always do with the miraculous—explain it away in terms of a natural phenomenon. And so to them the very voice of God is nothing more than thunder.

What does Jesus have to say about Satan in verse 31? The death of Jesus might appear to be a victory for Satan, but really it signals his doom. The cross defeats Satan. He only functions as he does now because God permits Him to do so. His eternal destruction is sure even though it is still future. God will cast him out of His presence and out of the earth into the lake of fire forever. See Revelation 20:10.

What does Jesus mean when He says He will be lifted up? He will be crucified. See John 3:14.

In verse 32 Jesus says He will draw ALL men to Himself. If all are drawn, why aren’t all men Christians? Not all will accept. Some will reject. All are drawn but none are forced. The people’s decisions (refusal to believe) will bring divine judgment on themselves. There is tension between the sovereignty of God and the free will of man.

In verse 34 what is the crowd's response to Jesus' words about His imminent death? It's as if they are saying, "The scribes and Pharisees have long taught us from the Law that the Messiah will live forever. Now You come along and teach that You, who claim to be the Messiah, are going to die. Something doesn't fit. What kind of a 'Messiah' are You advocating? Why are You, exactly?"

Note: The people can't follow both Jesus and the Pharisees. They must choose one or the other. And right now, what the Pharisees teach about the Messiah is much more appealing than what Jesus is saying. Already the mood is changing. They are no longer heralding Jesus as their King. They are now beginning to question who He is and the kind of "kingdom" He advocates.

Application: What does it mean to "walk" in Christ's light? It involves committing oneself to Jesus, who is on the move, and following Him continuously. It means walking in His steps. It means doing what He does, thinking as He thinks, and acting as He acts.

Verses 37-40 Why don't the Jews believe in Jesus? They first refused to believe and then they could not believe.

John begins with their unbelief "they still would not believe in him." It is only after this that he notes that God hardened their hearts lest they should see and be converted. God's hardening of hearts is a judicial hardening of those who have already turned from the light to walk in darkness. In the beginning they "would not" believe. Afterwards they "could not."

Verses 42-43 Why do the believers not proclaim their faith? They are too concerned about what others might think. They fear what the Pharisees can do to them. They are afraid of being cast out of the synagogue. While they are willing to identify with Jesus to some extent, these rulers of Israel are not willing to break with their colleagues. Peer pressure.

Application: There is probably a little bit of "the leaders" in all of us. We believe in Jesus as our Savior, and as the Savior of the world, and yet we keep it a secret. We don't share our faith with the lost. And we don't do so because we are too concerned with winning approval—"glory" from men—fear of rejection, and peer pressure. What keeps you from sharing your faith?

According to verses 44-50, what is God like?

- God is like Jesus! That is the importance of the deity of Jesus Christ.
- If Jesus Christ is not God, Jesus could not have died for our sin. If He were just a man, He would have had to die for His own sin.
- Jesus saves us versus judges us.
- But the Word of God judges and condemns. (See John 3:17 and 9:39.)
- Jesus says what the Father has told Him to say. His words can be trusted!

MEMORIZE: John 12:46