“Who is this Son of Man?”

(John 12:34-50)
6-1-2025

Introduction: v.34

“Who is this Son of Man?” (v. 34)

I. He is the “Light” of the World
***Who shined in a world of darkness* (v.35-36)**

II. He is the “Arm of the Lord”
***Who was hidden from many people’s eyes* (v.37-43)**

III. He is the “Sent One” from Heaven
***Who came to manifest God the Father* (v.44-50)**

A. To believe on Him is to believe on the Father (v.44)

B. To see Him is to see the Father (v.45-46)

C. To hear Him is to hear the words of the Father (v.47-50)

Conclusion:

“Who is this Son of Man?”

(John 12:34-50)
6-1-2025

Introduction: v.34

“Who is this Son of Man?” (v. 34)

I. He is the “_____” of the World
Who shined in a world of darkness **(v.35-36)**

II. He is the “_____ of the Lord”
Who was hidden from many people’s eyes **(v.37-43)**

III. He is the “_____” from Heaven
Who came to manifest God the Father **(v.44-50)**

A. To _____ on Him is to believe on the Father (v.44)

B. To _____ Him is to see the Father (v.45-46)

C. To _____ Him is to hear the words of the Father (v.47-50)

Conclusion:

“Who is this Son of Man?”

(John 12:34-50)

6-1-2025

Introduction: v.34

Having heard that Christ would be “lifted up” on a cross in death (vv. 32-33), the people questioned how this could be. “It is impossible,” they thought. “Messiah be killed? No way!”

What they didn’t understand is that Christ, although He would die, would not remain dead but would rise again and thereby truly “abide forever.”

“Christ abideth forever” – The Messiah remains forever.

In the Law (which encompassed the Torah and the Prophets to the Jews) the eternal rule and reign of the Messiah was promised.

Psalm 110:4
The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Isaiah 9:7
Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Daniel 7:13-14
I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. [14] And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

While expecting a political deliverer, unfortunately the people did not expect their Messiah to suffer and die (they stubbornly refused to believe all that the Bible foretold about the Messiah – Lk. 24:25-26; cp. Ps. 16, 22; Is. 53).

“Who is this Son of Man?” – It is to this question that Jesus speaks in verses 35-50.

**** “Who is this Son of Man?” (v. 34)***

I. He is the "Light" of the World
Who shined in a world of darkness **(v.35-36)**

v. 35
Because Christ, as far as His earthly ministry is concerned, would soon die and would physically be seen no longer by the masses, He admonished the people to take advantage of His light while it was present.

"Walk while ye have the light" – Take advantage of the opportunity, redeem the time, make the most of the moment. Most work (whether in construction or agriculture) is done during the daylight hours. The night brings with it many hindrances, obstacles, and restrictions.

That generation had the privilege of physically seeing "the Light of the world."

"Knoweth not whither he goeth" – "The ancients did not have our electric street lights. The dark streets were a terror to travelers." (Robertson, p. 230).

v. 36
"Believe in the Light" – Christ is calling for people not merely to know about the Light but to trust in it. To depend upon the light, i.e. to believe on Him.

The day I trusted Jesus Christ, the whole world lit up; everything was immediately bright; spiritual understanding now flooded my formerly spiritual dark soul.

The religion of the Lord Jesus Christ is a religion of light. One of the most splendid descriptions of our Heavenly Father is in the words of John: "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5). James says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (Ja. 1:17). Note James descriptive name for God, "the Father of lights." And the Lord Jesus declares that those who seek to do the will of God are the "children of light" (Jn. 12:36). Our Savior never said a more splendid thing about Himself than when He uttered that sublime declaration, "I am the light of the world" (Jn. 8:12, 9:5).

One rabbi said, "Light is the name of the Messiah" (cited by Matthew Henry commentary)

Daniel 2:22
He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Luke 2:32
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

The psalmist called Jehovah God his "light."

Psalm 27:1
A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Isaiah 60:19
The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

See verse 46

v. 36 - "That ye may <u>become</u>. . ." - "They were not 'sons of light,' a Hebrew idiom (cf. 17:12; Lk. 16:8 with the contrast); an idiom used by Paul in 1 Thes. 5:5; Eph. 5:8." (Robertson, p. 231).

'Children of light" – Those who believe on Christ are immediately transported out of the domain of darkness and become "translated into the kingdom of His dear Son." They are illuminated or enlightened (Heb. 6:4, 10:32).

v. 36b - "Did hide Himself from them" – To further emphasize the point of Christ's urgent warning to "believe in the light" while the opportunity still exists to do so, Christ vanishes from their sight. The Light hid Himself.

II. He is the "Arm of the Lord"
Who was hidden from many people's eyes **(v.37-43)**

v. 37
Signs and wonders do not (by themselves) produce faith. Man's hardness and blindness of heart requires a supernatural working.

God's Spirit, taking God's Word and enlightening the spiritual eyes of the blind is required for saving faith to result.

v. 38
"Esaias" = Isaiah 6:10 & 53:1

"The arm of the Lord" – is a reference to Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 6:10 & 53:1

"The arm of the Lord" – is a reference to Jesus Christ.

Why is He referred to as the "arm of the Lord?" Just as arms do things, make things, accomplish things, so everything God the Father ever did, He did through the instrumentality of His Son.

---He created through His Son

> All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
> *John 1:3*
>
> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
> *Colossians 1:16*
>
> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
> *Hebrews 1:2*
>
> **God Created all things by His "Arm"**
>
> Jer 27:5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.
>
> Jer 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

---He led Israel in the Old Testament by His Son

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.
1 Corinthians 10:4

---He revealed Himself by His Son

Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;
Hebrews 1:3

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?
John 14:9

---He provided redemption by His Son

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:
Galatians 3:13

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
Romans 3:24

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
Ephesians 1:7

---He sustains creation by His Son

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
Colossians 1:17

---He will rule and reign by His Son

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

---He will judge the world by His Son

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:
John 5:22

"They could not believe" - They were not able to believe; did not have the independent ability to believe.

Because they "would not" believe, God made their hearts so that they "could not" believe (EX: Pharaoh – Because he hardened his heart the Lord then solidified that hardness and kept it that way to fulfill His purposes through Pharaoh.

Once light has been rejected, God is under no obligation to grant sinners more light.

"When a person starts to resist the light, something begins to change within him; and he comes tot he place where he cannot believe. There is 'judicial blindness' that God permits to come over the eyes of people who do not take the truth seriously." (Wiersbe, p. 343).

v. 40
Truth must be <u>known</u> (**"eyes"**)
Truth must be <u>understood</u> (**"heart"**)
Truth must be <u>applied</u> (**'converted"**)

v. 41
Isaiah saw Christ's glory (Is. 6:1ff). The reference to **"His"** is the same reference as **"Him"** (v. 42), which is Christ.

Christ is the "arm of the Lord." He is the Lord, high and lifted up to whom the angels cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. . ."

v. 42
Not everyone is permanently kept blind by the sovereign Lord. He does choose to open the eyes of some.

Due to the "fear of man" which traps people in bondage (Prov. 29:25), many believers are reluctant to confess Christ publicly. Such reluctance does not last forever however.

Matthew 10:32-33
Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. [33] But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

v. 43
"They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" – What motivates you? The applause, approval, recognition of peers, friends or family? Or that "well done" which comes from above.

III. He is the <u>"Sent One" from Heaven</u>
Who came to manifest God the Father **(v.44-50)**

A. To <u>believe</u> on Him is to believe on the Father (v.44)

"Believeth not on Me" – i.e. not on Me only

Because of Christ's oneness with the Father, to believe on Him is to believe on God the Father.

Whom do I trust for salvation?

Acts 16:31 – "The Lord Jesus Christ"
John 5:24 – "On Him that sent Me"

To believe on Christ is to believe on the Father, because they are one (Jn. 10:30).

To honor the Son is to honor the Father.
John 5:23
That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

B. To <u>see</u> Him is to see the Father (v.45-46)

v. 45
Since Jesus is the "image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15) and "the express image of His Person" (Heb. 1:3), to see Him is to see God!

SEE: John 14:7-9

v. 46
Light and darkness are totally incompatible. You cannot have one and have the other at the same time.

When light comes into the room, it expels the darkness. When Christ comes into the heart, He expels darkness.

The believer no longer remains in spiritual darkness.

C. To hear Him is to hear the words of the Father (v.47-50)

v. 47
Christ's purpose for His first coming was not condemnation (Jn. 3:17) but salvation (Jn. 3:16).

v. 48
At least three books will be opened on Judgment Day (Rev. 20:12):

1) The Book of Life

2) The Book of Works

3) The Book of God (the Bible)
(these very words that Jesus gave will judge sinners; you will be held accountable for the words of Christ)

v. 49
Christ's words are not merely His but are the very words of the Father..

When He spoke, God spoke. Jesus is "the Word." (Jn. 1:1).

Conclusion:

The key word in verses 34-50 is "believe."

Believe in the Light – Jesus Christ.

Believe in the Arm of the Lord – Jesus Christ.

Believe in the Sent One from Heaven – Jesus Christ.