

INTRODUCTION

1. Some of the Teachings of the Lord Jesus

- a) Straightforward
- b) Succinct

2. Some other Teachings of the Lord Jesus

- a) Deep and profound
- b) Difficult and challenging
 - i) To understand
 - ii) To apply

THE “STRUGGLE” OF THE LORD JESUS

1. He had clearly said that He will be dying soon

2. He gave a paradox

- a) A grain of wheat must die
 - b) Only then can it produce much grain
- John 12:24

3. In the next moment He said

²⁷ “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

²⁸ Father, glorify Your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, “I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.”

John 12:27-28

4. Why did the Lord Jesus say that His soul was troubled?

- a) The Soul represents the deeper part of a person
- b) The Mind of the Lord Jesus accepted God’s will concerning suffering and death
- c) The Soul part still needs to be in sync with the Mind part

5. What did the Lord Jesus wisely do?

- a) He turned to God the Father immediately in prayer
- b) He candidly poured out His heart
- c) Should He say:

‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ John 12:27a

- i) This was a thought that came
 - ii) He evaluated this thought
- d) His Mind came to His rescue

“But for this purpose I came to this hour” John 12:27b

- i) His Mind responded strongly
 - ii) It strengthened the Soul
 - iii) He had come for this special purpose
 - iv) Mind and Soul must be “one” in this matter
 - v) This “hour” must be fully embraced!
- e) A vital and correct prayer must be made

“Father, glorify Your name.” John 12:28a

- i) Focus must be on the glorifying of God’s name
- ii) Rather than on suffering and death
- iii) This had been His strong focus in His life and ministry

6. The Answer from God the Father

Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, “I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.” John 12:28b

- a) God will glorify His own name always
- b) This is both good and right
- c) The death of the Lord Jesus will result in the glorifying of God

THE RESPONSE OF THOSE AROUND THE LORD JESUS

²⁹ Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake."
John 12:29-30

1. There were people around the Lord Jesus

- a) The Twelve would be there
- b) There were other disciples who followed the Lord Jesus
- c) Two remarks were made
 - i) Thunder was heard
 - ii) An angel had spoken to Him
- d) Both remarks were in error

2. The Lord Jesus explained

Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake."
John 12:30

- a) This voice
 - i) It was the Father who had spoken
 - ii) It was in answer to His prayer
- b) But there was a special reason why the Voice of God was manifested
 - i) It was for the sake of the Disciples
 - ii) The Father does not need to speak audibly to the Lord Jesus
 - iii) This Voice came to encourage the Disciples around the Lord Jesus

CONCLUSION

1. Important lessons for us to learn

- a) About the Mind
- b) About the Soul

2. Deeper lessons about Prayer

- a) To seek God
- b) To find an answer from God

3. Suffering is not easy to take

- a) Think “purpose”
- b) Also focus on “Glorifying God’s name”