

THE LAST CHANCE

John 12:20-26

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INTRODUCTION: LAST CHANCE

Certain English instill a sense of urgency when they're spoken.

We are entering into a time of Jesus' life where He will be doing a lot of "last things."

In John 13, Jesus will host His last Supper. In John 14, 15, and 16, we will read Jesus' last words to His disciples. John 17 records what some have called Jesus' Farewell Prayer, His last prayer before the cross. In John 19:30, Jesus breaths His last breath. With all of these lasts, the reader can feel the urgency of the moment.

Today, we read Jesus' last effort to persuade the crowd to follow Him, to believe in Him before it's too late.

In His last instruction to the general public, Jesus gives a summary of His teaching. We also find one more test of genuine faith that is carried over from verse 43. And He makes one last appeal for the crowd to believe. He appeals to the crowd using three pronominal statements.

I. WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME...V. 44

John 1:14-18

How many times did Jesus connect Himself to the Father as very God of very God?

John 5; 10:30; John 14:1

Throughout the Gospel we see the people's disconnect, their difficulty in understanding that Jesus is God.

John 14:6

Jesus was saying, "The only way to get what you truly want from your religion is through Me."

II. WHOEVER SEES ME... V. 45

...Sees the One who sent Me and doesn't remain in darkness

A. DARKNESS

In John's writings, he uses the idea of "darkness" to mean

1. Immorality, John 3:19, 20
2. Spiritual Ignorance, John 1:4, 5; 11:10; 1 John 2:9, 11
3. Shame, John 3:2; 13:30 (in the context of fear of man)

B. LIGHT

1. Hope, John 1:4
2. Spiritual Understanding, John 1:9
3. Spiritual Confidence, John 3:21
4. Leads to Life, John 1:4; 8:12
5. Leads to Right Living, John 11:10

III. IF ANYONE HEARS MY SAYINGS... V. 47

Throughout history, there has been a disconnect between the words of Jesus and Jesus Himself. People like the idea of Jesus, but they pick and choose when it comes to obeying what He said.

Matthew 28:19, 20

Nominal Believers

Even genuine Christians can fall into this trap.

Theological Liberals

Richard Niebuhr

[Liberalism is a] God without wrath, bringing people without sin into a kingdom without judgment, through a Christ without a cross,"

Every once in a while, I come across someone who says, "My God would never..."

Deuteronomy 18:18, 19

I will raise up for them a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him. And it shall come about that whoever does not listen to My words which he speaks in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

? What is the consequence of not listening to Him?

A. I DON'T JUDGE

B. MY WORDS JUDGE

John 6:28

CONCLUSION: MY FAITH ISN'T GENUINE, NOW WHAT?

Genuine faith is to believe exclusively in Jesus as the highest good that you can seek.

Genuine Faith		
John 3	Born of the Spirit	Is exclusively in Jesus
		Loves the Light (obeys)
John 4		True Worship (in spirit and truth)
		Based on the Word of Christ
		Believes What Jesus Says
John 5		Believes That Jesus is God
		Focused on Jesus' Word
John 6	Is Drawn By The Father	Focuses On Jesus Not Earthly Things
	Is Not Cast Out	Not Obsessed With Signs
		Continues With Jesus
John 7		Doesn't Judge By Appearances
John 8		Abides In Christ's Word (obeys)
John 9		Displays Humility
		Understands Helplessness
John 10		Focuses Exclusively on Christ
		Hears the Voice of Jesus
John 11		Trusts God's Providence
		Understands God Works For His Glory
John 12		Isn't Concerned With What The World Finds Acceptable
		Is exclusively in Jesus. Doesn't use Jesus as an add on to what you already have going.

? What do you do when you find that faith is less than genuine?

Jesus is the only way to the Father. The only way to get to your highest good is exclusively through Jesus. Believe in Him. See Him. Listen to Him.