

BIBLE STUDY: LESSON 22

Scripture of Lesson: John 11: 45~57

1. Jesus' ministry and the Jews' concerns, hardness of heart

- a. His miracle of raising a dead did not convince the Jewish leaders that Jesus was the Christ. [v. 47]
 - i. They were more concerned of possible political consequence of Christ's ministry [v. 48]
 - ii. *"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God"* [Rom 2:5]
 - iii. Parable of the vineyard [Matt 21: 33~43] – Christ spoke of the hardness of Jews' heart towards the vineyard's owner [God] and his son [Christ] and foretold them the kingdom would be taken away from them and given to a nation that bears the fruits.
- b. What is the condition of "my heart"? As we sit under the sound of the gospel, are we swayed by possible natural consequences to our personal future, or do we embrace God's words with a pure heart and faith?

2. Our national interests and God's interests: how to reconcile

- a. The Jewish leaders were more interested in their own positions and what the Roman colonial rulers might do to them than the truth in Christ's ministry.
- b. National interests and God's interests have often been at odds throughout history.
 - i. Decision makers are held responsible for upholding national interests but not God's interests.
 - ii. Pursuing national interests that are against God's interests have resulted in wrongful consequences. What are some examples?
 - iii. What principles does God want us to uphold in national/ international decisions?
 - iv. What would you do if you were placed in such situations?

3. God's will and reign continue: keep our vision clear

- a. Though the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ was for short duration and converted at best a few hundred people, His gospel still spreads all over the world. God reigns over His creation and Christ is coming back to reign over God's kingdom on earth.
- b. *"The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved."* [Ps 93:1]
- c. *"The Lord shall reign forever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord."* [Ps 146:10]
- d. Apostle John saw God sitting on His throne in heaven. [Rev. 4:1~11]
- e. Prophet Jeremiah saw Christ, who is a son of David, reigning as a King in God's kingdom on earth. *"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."* [Jeremiah 23:5]
- f. Daniel also saw the everlasting kingdom of God on earth. *"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints"*

of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” [Dan 7:27]

- g. Whose side are we in? God is seeking those who desire His righteousness and grace so that we can become citizens of His kingdom on earth, which shall be ruled by Christ.