

now believed it with fresh assurance in the light of His heart-searching discernment. Moreover, though the disciples merely avowed their beliefs that their Master had come to them from God.

They (rejoiced) that He had brought them on so far in their spiritual course.

This (conviction and confession) was founded upon an (intelligent basis). The plainness of His speech the revelation was clear. The knowledge which they had caused them to make a confident confession. Because we know, and it was a confession with great enthusiasm.

They began with a conviction, which is based on a fact and upon this conviction they build their faith. "We believe that thou camest forth from God." is the foundation of the confession of their faith.

You remember this was a similar fact used by Nicodemus, who said, "Thou art a teacher, come from God." It is also based on the great fact used by (Peter) who said, "Thou art the Son of the Living God." We ought to notice here two things.

(First) this was founded on (experience). These men had over and over again in their Lord's presence heard Him declare that He came forth from God. Experience

THE DISCIPLES' CONFESSIONS AND PREDICTIONS OF JESUS

John 16:29-32

Introduction

The first words of this wonderful message by Jesus were, "Let not your heart be troubled" They sounded the keynote for the whole message. The (aim) of all of this was to (bring peace and confidence) to the disciples. For a moment there was sorrow, they were bewildered, now as we come to the last part of this message we find the disciples making a clear confession, and Jesus speaking several predictions. The four verses are divided up. The first two deal with the disciples and their confessions satisfaction pronounced, and confession proclaimed. The last two verses, verses 31 and 32, and examination presented and promised predictions made by Jesus.

I. Satisfaction promised :29

In many of the previous sayings and promises the disciples did not understand, they did not think that they were plain enough. He had said to them that in that coming day, which was so near, that many things were to take place. He described many of these things

in Proverbs. He is speaking to them plainly and without mysterious sayings. Did they understand his words, when they thought them so plain? He said, "I came forth from the Father" and am come into the world." Again He had said, "I leave the world and go back to dwell with the Father." You remember in the last message we used this summary statement from verse 28 which is the center of all Christianity. Evidently this statement had caused them to gather light that they had never seen before, and it filled them with conviction. Satisfaction had come to their hearts because of the plainness of his speech. In His last words there was no proverb, and to them the resumption was clear. He had promised them this and now it had been fulfilled quicker than they had expected. It seemed that the last words of Christ did them more good than all of the rest that He had been saying, though He hadn't said many things that were wonderful before.

These were no proverbs, no wayside sayings, no dark sayings. (John 10:6) (John 16:25) The rays of light seem to penetrate their minds and their was surprise and joy. Jesus gave them a standard by

Satisfaction

3
A small boy was at a table when his mother was not near to take care of him & a lady next to him volunteered her services - let me cut your steak - if I can cut it the way you like it, she added with doubt. Thank you, responded the boy, I shall like it the way you cut it, even if you do not cut it the way I like it.

Dr. Samuel Fallows - returned home, very strong session of his the Board. Disappointing meeting - wife try to encourage him to no avail - Kept am - ms Fallows arose - planned to urge her husband stay in bed - her surprise, heard him going through AM exercises singing a hymn - My Samuel - What about the family meeting? I thought you would be here today! - My friend - That was yesterday! - Satisfaction we allow yesterday to stand our today. Remember today Bring 2/3rd of opportunity -

II. Confession Proclaimed :30

(scripture changed) -

The evidence seems to be complete with them, not a single doubt remained. Belief has risen to certainty. Moreover, the disciples must have been impressed by the understanding of their Lord. They probably felt at this moment that nothing however secret was hidden from Him. Nay, that His knowledge was divine. Their special ground for confidence is (supernatural knowledge) was the answer He had given to the unexpressed desire of their hearts for an explanation of His words. :19 (They said by our belief) that thou camest forth from God, is grounded in the knowledge which thou has manifested of the secret feelings of our hearts. We believe that thou camest forth from God." Not that they now first believed this truth, but that they

8
does not cast doubt on the reality of their faith.
We need to get the background of this. Jesus had told them that a terrible storm is about to break upon them. We understand from this that Jesus accepts imperfect surrender. If He did not, where would we be today? We reject half-heartedness in friendship, but Jesus is patient and willing to put up with us until we accept or reject His views.

It was a question which caused them to search their inner life concerning their profession. That day they had said, "I believe in Jesus Christ." Now and examination is presented to them. Will they verify their position with their outward lives? Will they fail to trust in Him as you would commit a trust to someone else?

There is one thing about this confession you should never trust (emotions). Because a religious experience means far more than just emotion. These men were perfectly sincere. There was gladness in their hearts.

We often deal in an unreasonable manner with these four disciples. We say, "What poor conduct." We talk about cowards and lack of courage, and lack of faith. But, would we have been any better, if we

5 -
had brought them into contact with Him. They now have proof that He came from God, and for the first time they grasped it in living reality, because experience had taught it to them. Everyone of us carries the beliefs and these beliefs are based on light which we have. There are somethings which we certainly, surely believe, and we believe this because of experience. It is a possession of ours.

Another thing that we know here is that they were certain that they had proof. Not only experience but proof. They had knowledge that brought assurance. They have built their faith upon it. No man that believes with all his heart can help speaking. And so these Christians could not be silent. They had truth and they had to express that truth. The prophet, Jeremiah said, "Thy word when shut up in my bones was like a fire." Can you say we know and we believe and not speak, and not testify. This seemed to change everything for them, and the disciples said they had grasped the meaning of the Master's words and were glad of them. They feed on them, they got something out of them. And yet, (this generation) in which we live wants to understand all the mysteries of God. They think that the man on the street ought

to be able to read the Bible and understand it like a newspaper. Many of us fail to realize that this comes through experience and cannot be understood anyother way.

I'd like for us to look at the first part of this verse, where the term omniscience. By this is meant God's perfect knowledge. God knows everything that is the object of knowledge. It means that God has knowledge of this world which He made. The things which we are vitally interested in is God's knowledge of the actual world that He made. God's knowledge is not limited by time. God knows the temporal order. time is real for God. Not real as something outside of his control and as limiting Him, as real as being known by him. Another thing God's knowledge is not limited by space. What has been said about the temporal order applies to space. Another thing to notice about this is that God does not have to reason the thing out because of facts, but He knows directly. God knows the events of the world order not simply as isolated events, but in their relation to all other events of that order.

So here is a basic doctrine of God concerning His knowledge. This was the motive of their faith. This proved to them that He was a teacher come from God, more than a prophet. Those who know Christ best know Him by experience. They can say of His power, "It works in me." Of His love, "He loved me." This proves that Christ not only to have a devine mission, but is a devine person. And that He is one that understands the thoughts of an individual's heart. (Hebrews 4:12-13) "That He is able to search the heart of an individual." (Revelations 2:23)

We remember reading of the woman of Samaria that she said Christ told her all things, that ever she did. We remember again John 1:46-49 Nathanael had knowledge after meeting Christ that Christ had knowledge of him, before they met.

III. Examination presented. :31

Do you really believe? Do you now believe? That

12
being near.

Forsaking of Disciples
So ~~could we discover that they will not only~~
scatter, but they will actually forsake Him. We
discover this on the night of His arrest and His
trial. Jesus predicted the scattering of His disciples
in the hour referred to. And this forsaking Him, we
remember reading in John 21:3, "That some of the
disciples went back to their (old jobs), fishing on
the sea of Galilee." How weak their love would
prove to be in the hour of trial. There is sadness
in this statement. (Jesus was the lonliess man) that
ever lived. He knew pain, and yet there was no one
to suffer with him. No man understood Him, no man
knew Him, no man thoroughly loved Him. We remember
when He went to (Gethsemane) He told them to tarry and
to watch for Him. We remember how three different
times He returned to find them sleeping. Instead of
finding them in sympathy with Him, He foretold His
lonliness during his death. Of course we know all
of us live alone in a certain sense of the word. They
tell us (atoms) do not touch each other and hearts come
closer than atoms. Yet after all we die alone and in
the depths of our souls we all live alone. So let us

9-
had been there? (Suppose you) had stood there, watching
Jesus die on the cross, would your faith have lived?
In some quiet hour when you are by yourself, present
yourself an examination. Do we not know what it was
that brought this conviction in this moment, in the
midst of these people.

I fear that we would be like those that were
instructed, "Let him who is without sin among you
cast the first stone." There will not be many stones
cast if that law be applied. Let all recognize his
weakness, trust to nothing either your convictions or
your emotions, but only trust in Jesus Christ.

This confession is examined by Jesus. The question
is very important to the Master and to the disciples.
Every true master feels and interest in the success of
his pupils, and Jesus was interested in His pupils.
The question naturally (anticipates an answer). The
question is very searching. Do you believe? And
they were inspired to search themselves. He did not
force His ideas upon His disciples, but He helped them
to think for themselves. This question was tender,
and involved joy and sorrow.

This is but a (gentle rebuke) of Christ to His

disciples for their confidence that now they understand him. Do you look upon yourselves as being advanced? If they understood now why did they not

understand sooner? Have you not heard the same thing? tonight to people all about us why do you not believe? After saved - They always say why didn't I believe this sooner + Their belief in Christ was genuine as far as it went, but perils await them of which they are ignorant.

They are too self-confident as to despair of all the storms. Of course, this question opens up what is to follow.

IV. Promised Predictions. :32

The long looked for hour was at hand. The time for the arrest of Jesus was near. It was so near, the (very day) had arrived and before the night should past they would be tested, in their faith. This presents, rather the fulfilment of conditions than the beginning of a period. Predictions, first of all says the hour is at hand. Second, they would be scattered like sheep. Third that He would be

forsaken of them. And fourth, that God is faithful unto the Christ.

So first, the hour was at hand. The time for all of this to take place, He prophesied was at hand. They must be firm, they must be ready to stand because their confession will be tested immediately.

Second they will be scattered. Matthew 26:56. This is a prediction that fear will seize the party and they will leave Him. Ezekiel 34:12 "Scattered from Him, ye shall leave me alone." They should have been witnesses for Him upon his trial. They should have ministered to Him in His sorrow. If they could have given Him no comfort, they might have given Him some credit. But they were ashamed and they shared in the fear. We must note that many good causes suffer when it is under the distress of the enemies. Their friends deserted. The disciples had continued with Christ in His other temptations and yet turned their backs upon Him now. Everyone went his own way, where he fancied he would be most safe. Every man to secure his ownself and his own life. Jesus knew that His disciples would desert Him in that critical moment. He spoke of the time

be thankful that Jesus knows the bitterness of such loneliness.

This brings us to the last prediction which Christ says "He was alone, yet not alone." In other words God is faithful. There was a consciousness of unbroken (communion) with the Father. Jesus had a sense of communion with the Father that was deep and close and constant. "I am not alone for the Father is with me." "If earth be dark, let us look to heaven." "If dear ones are torn from us, let us reach for God." If we are alone, let us know that others have had this bitter tonic. It is not all lost if the trees shut out the sky. Christ's company is to us what the Father's fellowship was to Christ. "Ye shall leave me alone, saith also," "I am with you always, even to the end of the world." This communion with the Father was only broken in that hour when He said, "My God, why has thou forsaken me?" He thus identified Himself with us.

(Jesus was alone.) He was first of all, (socially) alone. The world was against Him, and even the existing church was against Him. They were the ringleaders in His death. At this very time, there was one of His own group in the city planning to betray Him. Jesus was not only socially alone, but He was (mentally) alone.

He was ever so, because He towered above them, they could not understand His thoughts or His mission into the world. They did not know the meaning of His life. He was also spiritually alone. He was the only sinless being in the world, and there was not a single living soul that was in spiritual harmony with His. His disciples had an idea that He was to establish a temporal kingdom. Peter manifest his sympathy with this when he attempted to defend Him with his sword. To a great extent He was necessarily alone. A great portion of His work--no one could help Him to do it. When He made the sacrifice and satisfied the law we know that there was no one to help with it. It must have been severe pain to suffer such loneliness.

But Christ was not alone, "Yet, I am not alone, because of the Father." This fellowship was essential, this fellowship was deserved, this fellowship was continuous. It is not the Father was, or will be but is with me. This fellowship was to Him now, especially sweet and precious. He could not bare to leave without it. So Jesus had a privilege which He predicted and He promised that He was still on the bosom of the Father. As a privilege which is common to all believers by virtue of their union with Christ. When they are alone, they

are not alone, but the Father is with them. For solitude is their choice, when they are alone. As (Issac) in the field, as (Nathanael) under the fig tree, as Peter upon the housetop praying. The Father is with them.

Great Musician said "if I go a single day without practicing I can tell the difference when I touch the keys of my instrument: so if, the strain goes for the day without real communion with the heavenly Father, it lowers the tone of his spiritual life - no where does constancy count (Jesus), said I'm not alone

an Irish peddler met a happy strain one day exclaimed "it's a grand thing to be loved - The peddler said 'I know something better - better than being saved!' What can that be? The companionship of the man who has saved me!"

Jesus was not alone & you need not be alone!