

Sermon series: Life to the Full; delivered by Dr. Josh Moody, senior pastor, on December 30, 2018

Bible text explored: John 12:44–50

⁴⁴And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.” [ESV]

Review and application:

1. In this final public appeal by Jesus, what does his shouted delivery style (“Jesus cried out,” v. 44) tell you?
2. Why (vv. 44-45) did Jesus stress that his summary words were urgently significant?
3. Pastor Moody noted how the rejection Jesus encountered then is expressed today. How would you respond to someone who asserts that . . .
 - . . . it doesn’t matter what you believe so long as you are sincere?
 - . . . believing that Jesus is the only way to God is intolerant?
 - . . . Jesus was just a great moral teacher?
4. If someone claims the Bible is full of errors and historical inaccuracies, what resources could you suggest that discredit this view?*
- What qualified persons in our congregation could you suggest they talk to?
5. What do we need to do (v. 46) to escape from the darkness of our world? (See also *1 John 1:5-9*.)
Consider the practical steps Pastor Josh suggested for making your lifestyle light-filled. Have you . . .
 - . . . devised a plan for regular personal Bible reading and prayer?
 - . . . settled on a good method for systematic Bible study?
 - . . . decided how to increase the input into your life of elements of light, and decrease those of darkness?
6. If we may be failing to receive Jesus’ words (vv. 47-48), what remedy is set out in *Psalms 19:7-11*?
Have you made a list of what you know to do but are not doing?
Have you asked Jesus to speak to you as you read his Word?
7. Pastor Josh commended the way Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase of v. 48 draws out the ultimate inseparability of Jesus and his words. Read it out loud and reflect on this deeper level of meaning:
The Word, the Word-made-flesh that I have spoken and that I am, that Word and no other is the last word.” –The Message

8. If Jesus says what the Father has ordered him to say (vv. 49-50), his words are the food that sustains eternal life. Some spiritual resolutions are therefore in order. Do you need to . . .
- . . . repent and make a fresh beginning in light of Jesus' urgent appeal?
 - . . . resolve to come to church regularly and invest in Kingdom ministry?
 - . . . rejoice in who Jesus is as your *life*?

*A classic resource noted by Pastor Moody is F. F. Bruce's *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (Eerdmans, 2003). Two more recent books are Simon Gathercole's *How God Became Jesus* (Zondervan, 2014) and Peter Williams' *Can We Trust the Gospels?* (Crossway, 2018).