

## God Thunders and We Cover Our Ears John 12.27-50

### The crisis point has come

<sup>27</sup> "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour."<sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."<sup>29</sup>

Some people in the crowd heard a voice. Others said it was just thunder. Everybody experienced the same event, but they put different interpretations on it.

<sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world

We make judgements all the time; when we drive, when we shop, etc. "Judgement" is about making a decision, about drawing a line.

The Greek word is *krino*, where we get our English word "crisis." A crisis requires a response, a decision; it requires a judgement.

### Driven out or drawn in? (12.31-32)

<sup>31</sup> ... now the prince of this world will be driven out.<sup>32</sup> But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."<sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Jesus' crucifixion is the great dividing point. In it he draws people to himself for life and salvation, and at the same time he drives out evil.

As Jesus is lifted up on the cross he calls out to us, he draws us to himself, but he leaves us with the option of rejecting him. How you respond to Jesus' death on the cross is what marks you as either drawn in or driven out.

### Stumbling in the darkness or walking in the light? (12.35-36)

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The person who walks in the dark does not know where they are going."<sup>36</sup> Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become children of light."

Jesus repels evil, even as he draws people to himself, and as he shines his light on our lives, we have a choice. We can walk out into the light to meet him, or we can cower back into the shadows. Cf (John 3.18-21) GNB  
Light reveals things to be what they truly are.

Each one of us is judged by the cross and found wanting. None of us makes the grade. None of us gets a pass. We all fail.

But the good news is that in Jesus' death on the cross we have also been forgiven and given new life.