

Sermon: Now Is the Time

Series: The Gospel of John: That the World May Know

Date: September 21, 2025

Text: John 12:20–50

Opening Reflection

- Think of a time you had to make a big decision.
- What helped you decide? What did it cost?

Context of John 12

- John's Gospel is divided into two parts:
 - **Book of Signs** (Ch. 1–12)
 - **Book of Glory** (Ch. 13–21)
- This passage is the **turning point**:
 - Jesus says, 'The hour has come...' (John 12:23)
 - Transition from public ministry to private teaching

1 **The Time Has Come for Glory**

- Jesus speaks of being glorified—but through suffering.
 - Read: **John 12:24** – The grain of wheat must die to bear fruit.
 - Read: **John 12:27–28** – Jesus is troubled, yet submits to the Father's will.
 - Read: **John 12:32–33** – "Lifted up" = crucifixion and exaltation
- Prophecy Connection:
 - **Isaiah 52:13–14** – The Suffering Servant
 - **Isaiah 53:5–6** – Pierced for our transgressions


 Reflection: What does 'glory' look like in God's kingdom vs. the world's kingdoms?

2 **The Time Has Come for Judgment**

- Read: **John 12:31–32**
 - Judgment on the world
 - Defeat of the "prince of this world" (Satan)
 - **Revelation 12**
- Jesus takes judgment **on Himself**
- Cross = justice + mercy


A Sign in the Sky

- The rainbow after the flood = a bow pointed toward God, not us
- God takes the punishment on Himself
- He is not angry at you—He is angry at sin

 Reflection: What does it mean that Jesus faced judgment so we wouldn't have to?

The Time Has Come for Decision

- Read: **John 12:37–50**
 - Many saw signs but still didn't believe
 - Some believed secretly—valued human praise over God's
- Read: **John 12:25–26**
 - Love your life = lose it
 - Hate your life = keep it for eternal life
 - Follow Jesus = serve Him, be where He is

 Reflection: What is Jesus asking you to surrender today?

Final Thoughts

- - Following Jesus **costs something**
 - Your preferences, reputation, comfort
- But **not following** also has a cost
- Jesus offers **life as it's meant to be lived**—now and forever

 Decision Point:

What is your response to Jesus today?

- Believe?
- Follow?
- Surrender?

 Prayer

Write a personal prayer in response to today's message.

‘Lord, I’ve heard the truth. I know the cost. Help me choose You.’