# [A grey square with black text Description automatically generated](https://andrewkarr.org)

# [**John 12:20-50**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.20-50)**– Lessons on Life and Light**

[**20**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-20.htm)Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; [**21**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-21.htm)these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” [**22**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-22.htm)Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. [**23**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-23.htm)And Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. [**24**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-24.htm)“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and **dies**, it remains alone; but if it **dies**, it bears much fruit. [**25**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-25.htm)“He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. [**26**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-26.htm)“If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

[**27**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-27.htm)“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. [**28**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-28.htm)“Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” [**29**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-29.htm)So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, “An angel has spoken to Him.” [**30**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-30.htm)Jesus answered and said, “This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. [**31**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-31.htm)“Now **judgment** is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. [**32**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-32.htm)“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” [**33**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-33.htm)But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to **die**. [**34**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-34.htm)The crowd then answered Him, “We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?” [**35**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-35.htm)So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. [**36**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-36.htm)“While you have the Light, **believe** in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.” These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them. [**37**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-37.htm)But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not **believing** in Him. [**38**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-38.htm)This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: “LORD, WHO HAS **BELIEVED** OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?” [**39**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-39.htm)For this reason they could not **believe**, for Isaiah said again, [**40**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-40.htm)“HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM.” [**41**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-41.htm)These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him. [**42**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-42.htm)Nevertheless many even of the rulers **believed** in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; [**43**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-43.htm)for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

[**44**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-44.htm)And Jesus cried out and said, “He who **believes** in Me, does not **believe** in Me but in Him who sent Me. [**45**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-45.htm)“He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. [**46**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-46.htm)“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who **believes** in Me will not remain in darkness. [**47**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-47.htm)“If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not **judge** him; for I did not come to **judge** the world, but to save the world. [**48**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-48.htm)“He who rejects Me and does not **receive** My sayings, has one who **judges** him; the word I spoke is what will **judge** him at the last day. [**49**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-49.htm)“For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. [**50**](http://biblehub.com/john/12-50.htm)“I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

**Interesting Words**

##### ****dies****

(ἀποθνῄσκω – Greek) – apothnéskó [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/599.htm) dying, about to die, wither, anastasis, from apó, “away from,” which intensifies thnḗskō, “to die”) – properly, die off (away from), focusing on the separation that goes with the “dying off (away from).” stresses the significance of the separation. [Matt 9:24](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%209.24), [22:24](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%2022.24); [Luke 16:22](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke%2016.22); [John 4:47](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%204.47); [Rom 7:2](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom%207.2),

##### ****judgement****

(κρίσις – Greek) – krisis [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/2920.htm) from krino (verb: to separate, distinguish, judge) – (noun), judging, judgment, decision, sentence; generally: divine judgment; accusation … [John 7:24](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%207.24); [Heb 9:27](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Heb%209.27), [10:27](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Heb%2010.27); [2Peter 3:7](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Pet%203.7);

##### ****believe****

(πιστεύω – Greek) – pisteuó [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/4100.htm) believe, have faith in, trust in, believing that leads to/proceeds from God’s inbirthing of faith.

##### ****receive****

(λαμβάνω – Greek) – lambanó [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/2983.htm) receive, get, take, lay hold of by aggressively (actively) accepting what is available (offered), “accept with initiative” emphasizes the volition (assertiveness) of the receiver.

**Cross References**

▪︎ [John 8:28](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%208.28) – Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection confirm His is the Messiah.  
▪︎ [John 8:12](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%208.12) – Jesus is the Light of the world.  
▪︎ [John 1:11-12](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%201.11-12) – Receiving and believing are equivalent and have the same result.

**Discussion Questions**

Download questions to Word document (click here). Enter your answers, then meet with some friends to discuss. You can also compare your answers to mine for a virtual discussion… to return… back.

###### 1. ****What do the first few verses (****[John 12:20-21](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.20-21)****) tell you about the Greeks and about Jesus from His response (****[John 12:23-24](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.23-24)****)?****

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###### 2. ****What was at the forefront of Jesus’ mind (****[John 12:24](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.24)****,****[27](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.27)****)?****

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###### 3. ****What analogy does Jesus use to make His point (****[John 12:24](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.24)****) and how does that apply?****

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###### 4. ****How did Jesus describe His purpose and how was this confirmed (****[John 12:27-28](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.27-28)****)? Also consider****[John 12:47-48](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.47-48)****.****

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###### 5. ****How was Jesus to die (****[John 12:33-34](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.33-34)****) and what was to be the final result (****[John 12:31-32](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.31-32)****)?****

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###### 6.****What are Jesus’ ststements and warnings about light and darkness (****[John 12:35-36](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.35-36)****)?****

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###### 7.****What are the ramifications of belief vs. disbelief for the people in the crowds present with Jesus (****[John 12:36](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.36)****,****[41-42](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.41-42)****)?****

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###### 8.****What are the benefits of believing for us today (****[John 12:45-46](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2012.45-46)****)?****

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###### 9.****What is the downside of disbelief?****

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