

# Daily Bible Study Commentary by Pastor Steve

We're excited to have you digging deeper into the Word. The best way to use this study guide is to read the Bible verse(s) first, then Pastor Steve's commentary. God bless you.

## John 12:25

**v25:** Jesus was not talking about self-neglect or having a sour attitude toward the good things the world provides when He added, "The one who loves his soul (natural life) loses it, and the one who hates his life in this world will save (guard, preserve) it into eternal life" (literal). Most humans are born with the instinct to care for themselves. God places within us a desire to stay alive, and that desire is healthy and necessary. If someone begins to neglect those essential needs, people recognize it as a warning signal that something is wrong. Jesus Himself lived a rugged life (Mt 8:20), but not a life of self-neglect or withdrawal from others (Mt 11:18-19). By telling us that we must "hate" our lives in this world, Jesus was pointing to the costly choices people must make in order to follow Him. They will choose paths that a person pursuing his or her own welfare wouldn't choose. At times they will make the same decision that someone who hates life might make, but they will make that decision for a very different reason. They will be motivated by love, not hatred.

## John 12:26-27

**v26:** Jesus' warning continued. He said, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me, and where I am there My servant will be also" (literal). He had led a selfless life because He followed the Father's lead. He did what He saw the Father do (Jn 5:19) and spoke what He heard the Father say (Jn 8:28; 12:49; 14:10), and in the future, after He was glorified, He would lead His disciples in the same way. They would do what they saw Him do and speak what they heard Him say (Jn 17:18; 20:21). And their obedience to Him would be honored by the Father: first, in this life by giving that person His presence, as He had His Son; and second, by rewarding that person's faithfulness in the age to come (Mt 19:27-29; Mk 10:28-30; Lk 18:28-30).  
**v27:** We usually associate the mental anguish Jesus experienced prior to the cross with the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36-39; Lk 22:39-46), but this statement reveals that it began days earlier. At some level, the anticipation of the suffering that lay ahead of Him accompanied Jesus throughout His ministry (Jn 2:19; 3:14; 6:51; 8:28; 10:11; 12:7, 24), but apparently the pressure grew as that day drew near. On Sunday of that final week Jesus said this: "Now My soul has been troubled (shaken, stirred); and what shall I say, 'Father save Me out of this hour'? But for this purpose I came into this hour" (literal).

## John 12:28

**v28:** After reminding Himself of why He must suffer, Jesus prayed, "Father, glorify Your name." I believe He was saying, "Glorify Your name by empowering Me to fulfill Your purpose for this hour," which was for Him to become "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29); it was for Him to become the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 49:1-53:12. And the Father answered Him by saying, "I have both glorified [it] and will glorify [it] again" (literal), meaning, "I have already glorified My name by sending You into the world to die as a guilt offering (Isa 53:10). And I will glorify it again by raising You from the dead and placing You in a position of authority which is high and exalted above all My creation" (Isa 52:13; 53:12).

## John 12:29-32

**vs29-30:** The Father said these things audibly, and the entire crowd standing nearby heard His voice. Many reacted with denial. Some pretended to have heard thunder. Others, who didn't dare deny that they had heard distinct words, said it must have been an angel. But it was the Father's voice answering His Son's prayer, and Jesus knew the crowd heard what the voice said. So He said to them, "This voice did not come because of Me, but because of you" (literal) (v30). In other words, "I didn't need this assurance, you did."  
**vs31-32:** Then He went on to say that God was promising them that the judgment that had fallen on the human race because of our sin and the brutal control the devil held over us was about to be broken. By His cross ("lifted up") He would make a way of salvation for all humans.

## John 12:33-34

**vs33-34:** By using the words, "lifted up" (v32), Jesus indicated that He would die violently, in particular that He would be crucified (Jn 3:14). And the crowd knew what He meant, but that was the one truth most of them were not willing to accept. That truth had always been their point of conflict with Jesus. They would gladly welcome Him if He would become a king who would rise up and defeat their enemies, but they felt no need for a Messiah who would die for their sins. So they tried to show Him how mistaken He was by engaging Him in a theological debate about Messianic promises (v34), but Jesus refused to be drawn into that argument. He simply warned them that their opportunity to respond to Him, while He was still with them in person, was nearly at an end.

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## **John 12:35**

**v35:** Jesus called Himself "the Light" because He was the perfect representation of God. His words, His actions and His determination to die for the sins of the world revealed the true path to salvation. Future generations would hear or read about Him, but at that moment, those standing nearby didn't need anyone to tell them about Him; they could see and hear Him for themselves. They had a unique opportunity which future generations would envy. So Jesus invited them to set aside their own notions of what the Messiah should or shouldn't do and accept by faith the truth He was revealing. He encouraged them to "walk" in light of that truth, but He also warned them that spiritual confusion ("darkness") would soon take its place if they didn't.

## **John 12:36-38**

**v36:** Within a few days it would become much more difficult to believe, so He asked them to take that step of faith, right then and there. He said, "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of light." He was inviting them to believe that He was who He said He was, and that He would do what He said He would do, and thereby become "children of God" (Jn 1:12-13). **vs36-37:** Yet on that Palm Sunday afternoon few responded to His invitation, so He slipped away from the crowd and returned to Bethany (Mk 11:11). **v38:** In case any of his readers missed the point, John quotes Isaiah's question, "[Lord] who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" (Isa 53:1). Isaiah wrote those words in the middle of his prophecy about the Messiah dying as a guilt offering for the sins of Jews and Gentiles (Isa 52:13-53:12), and as he wrote he wondered who would believe him.