

*Daily Devotional Guide to
the Book of John*

John Chapter 12

Days 135 - 149

Gaile Thulson

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A Daily Devotional Study Of The Gospel Of John

You will need a Bible of your own to do this devotional study. Reading the Bible with an open heart and mind brings us into God's presence, and getting to know God is accomplished by spending time with him on a daily basis. This study is designed to develop or maintain the habit of meeting daily with God, sometimes referred to as a devotional time with God. It doesn't have to take a large chunk of time, but it needs to be focused on the Scriptures (the Bible). It doesn't have to cover a lot of material or content every day, it just needs to be understood and applied to our lives.

The study days are numbered so that you can do them any day of the week, preferably one each day. However, if you miss a day, it won't matter because the days are not assigned a date or day of the week.

My approach to the study is a verse by verse exploration and application of God's Word to our lives. This is an *inductive* study, which means that we derive meaning from the Biblical text itself rather than from outside sources. The passages for each day are short, to enable you to focus more in depth on a few verses at a time. I frequently bring additional Scripture into the discussion in an effort to ensure accurate interpretation of the day's topics.

How This Devotional Study Works

1. In your Bible, look up and read the verses for the day.
2. Write the first verse for the day in the top left space under *What it Says* (Row 1, Column 1).
3. Working left to right, read the comments in the *Meanings/Principles* space (Row 1, Column 2).
4. Then, write your answers to the questions to clarify *What it Means to Me* (Row 1, Column 3).
5. Continue by writing the next verse in Row 2, Column 1, reading Row 2 Column 2, and writing answers to questions in Row 2, Column 3.
6. Continue working left to right as you go down the page.

To summarize, first read through the verses in John for the day. Then write exactly what the first verse says in the first column. (*Write each verse word for word, exactly as it appears in the Bible in column one.*) After you write out each verse, read the second column that clarifies the important information given in that verse and then answer the questions in column three related to the verse. (*Work left to right. It is important to answer each question based on the verse and its meaning in column two.*)

You may choose to either 1) print pages and write in the spaces provided or 2) enter your responses on your computer. If you use your computer you can save your work, then come back and print at any time. If your response exceeds the space allowed you can scroll the text area to see the complete text; but if you print, some of the text may be hidden.

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:1</p>	<p>While those who did not know Jesus speculated on his activities, those who put their trust in him were with him.</p>	<p>Am I troubled by the speculations of those caught in unbelief? Should I be troubled?</p>
<p>John 12:2</p>	<p>Those who believed Jesus were spending quality time with him, fellowshiping with him, and honoring him. What amazing gratitude and reverence they must have felt!</p>	<p>What should I be doing?</p>

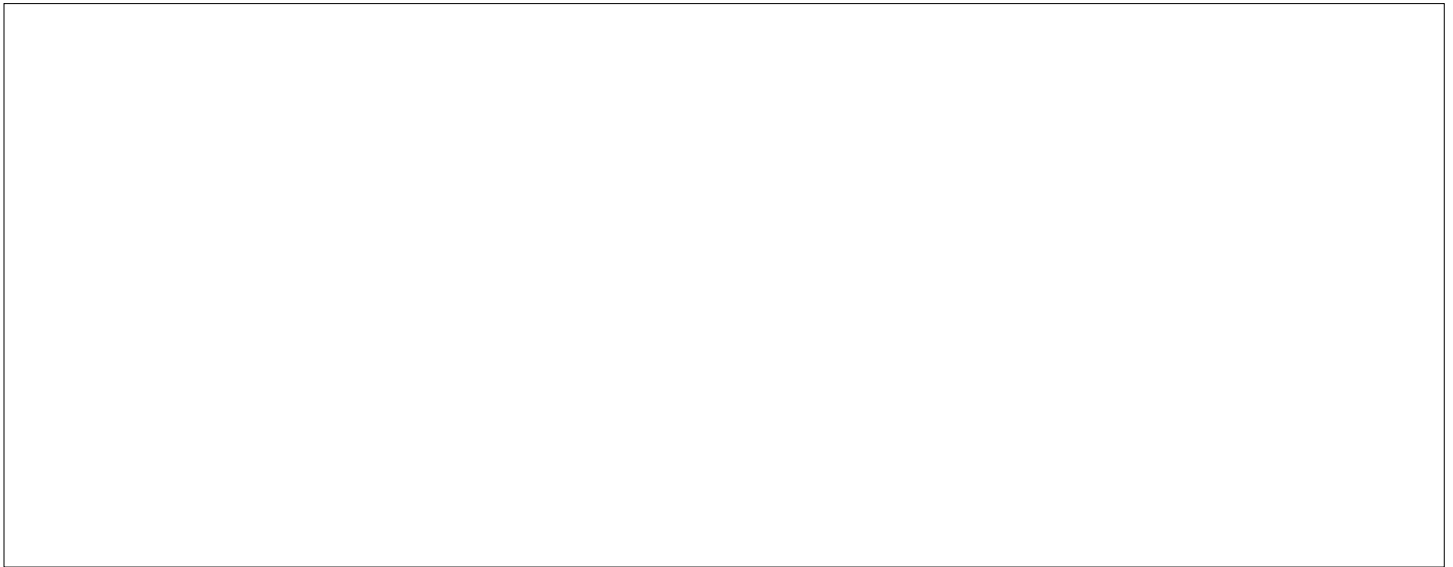
What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:3</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1047" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 365px;"></div>	<p>Mary performed a purely devotional action toward Jesus. Her worshipful act filled the house and spread to all those present.</p>	<p>If I want to positively affect those around me, what simple act is required?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1524 1047" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 351px;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>The state of Judas' heart was revealed by his objection to lavish worship of Jesus.</p>	<p>Do I ever wish to censor others' worship of Jesus? Why?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 12:5</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Sometimes protests on behalf of economy only show that there is no faith in the Lord of all creation and in his provision.</p>	<p>God calls me to good stewardship, providing for my family, and to helping the poor, but have I ever been appropriately extravagant with my time or resources in my devotion to Jesus? (Deuteronomy 14:22, Proverbs 3:9, Acts 4:36-37)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 12:6</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 250px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>The state of Judas' heart was revealed by his actions and his words. Perhaps those close to him knew him for what he was: his words evidently did not fool the Apostle John, and certainly did not fool Jesus.</p>	<p>What is the true state of my heart based on Jesus' words in Matthew 23:23?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 250px; width: 100%;"></div>

Day 136 **Read John 12:4-6**

What do I need to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:7</p>	<p>Review John 12:4-6 from yesterday. Mary had evidently been saving this very special perfume for a special occasion. Jesus had raised her brother from the dead and she was grateful. Perhaps she even realized that Jesus would give his life soon and she wanted to use what she had to honor him and show her love for him. Again, the state of Judas' heart was revealed, that he would belittle Mary for her act of worship when Jesus was going to his death.</p>	<p>Am I judging others for their lavish giving in response to Jesus?</p> <p>Am I able to see someone else's lavish giving as an act of worship?</p> <p>How much do I love Jesus for what he has done for me?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:8</p>	<p>For the sake of those listening to the conversation, Jesus acknowledged our need to help the poor, but he was drawing close to his death.</p>	<p>What am I doing to help the poor on a consistent basis?</p> <p>What am I currently doing to show my devotion to Jesus (in my heart, attitudes, actions, and the way I spend the money I have)?</p> <p>Is there something I would like to change? What has held me back?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:9</p>	<p>Many people came out of curiosity. Many came wanting to see a man whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Perhaps they thought Jesus could be the One they were waiting for, if he had really raised someone from the dead. Perhaps just as today, many people were looking for a way to prolong life without concern for changed hearts.</p>	<p>What should my prayers be for those I know who do not believe in Jesus?</p>
<p>John 12:10</p>	<p>Those who opposed Jesus knew that he had raised someone from the dead. Their response was not to believe that he was God's Son and worship him. Even the most amazing miracle of all, someone coming back from death, was not sufficient for belief and salvation of hardened, jealous, hateful hearts (Luke 16:19-31). Their response was to try to undo what he had done!</p>	<p>Should I be surprised by opposition to Jesus, even if it is blatant opposition to good, to God?</p>
<p>John 12:11</p>	<p>Those who reject Jesus may try to prevent others from accepting and believing him, but God works in the hearts of those who are open to him. The miracle that caused those in power to oppose Jesus brought many to faith in Jesus. Praise God because many were and are being saved!</p>	<p>Where is my focus?</p> <p>Should opposition to Jesus take away my joy and purpose?</p>

Day 138 ***Read John 12:9-11***

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:12</p>	<p>These Jewish people had heard Jesus' teachings and experienced his miracles, and some had been healed or fed miraculously. They were looking for Jesus.</p>	<p>Why am I looking for Jesus?</p>
<p>John 12:13</p>	<p>"Hosanna," means "Save, now," implying that they believed Jesus could save them, that he was capable of delivering them from their present circumstances. The people were recognizing Jesus as their Messiah and King. Many did not understand that God's greater priority was to save them from their sins.</p>	<p>Do I believe Jesus is able to save me from my present circumstances?</p> <p>Do I believe Jesus is able to save me from my own sin?</p> <p>Why is removing sin a greater priority to God?</p>
<p>John 12:14</p>	<p>Some of the events of Jesus' life were done to him, as in the people's response to Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, but this is an occasion when he himself purposely fulfilled kingly Messianic prophecy written in Old Testament times.</p>	<p>What is significant about Jesus' willingness to fulfill Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:15</p>	<p>This prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 meant that Jesus was claiming kingship, but not as a warrior on a horse. He came first as a gentle redeemer. He came first to deliver us from sin by offering up his life.</p>	<p>Why didn't Jesus come first as a victorious king to judge sin and rule the earth with absolute righteousness?</p>
<p>John 12:16</p>	<p>Matthew 21, Mark 11, and Luke 19 all record this event because the things done to Jesus and things Jesus did both prove that Jesus is God's Messiah (Chosen One). The fulfillment of Scripture is not always clear to us at the time, so we need to search the scriptures and ask God to open our eyes to what he is doing in the world.</p>	<p>Do I know Scripture so that I am able to reflect upon the events in the world and see God working? (What do I see God doing in the world today?)</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:17</p>	<p>If one has experienced a great miracle of Jesus, one can't help but spread the word.</p>	<p>Am I spreading the word about Jesus?</p>
<p>John 12:18</p>	<p>When we talk about the miracles in our life and the miracles Jesus performed to show who he was...</p>	<p>Am I talking about the miracles in my life and the signs in Scripture that indicate Jesus' deity?</p>
<p>John 12:19</p>	<p>it will draw people to him.</p>	<p>What drew me to Jesus? Can I use something similar to authentically point others to Jesus?</p>

Day 140 **Read John 12:17-19**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:20</p>	<p>People who feared and worshiped the one true God but were not Jewish could come to the temple, to the huge Court of the Gentiles, in order to worship. This was the area Jesus had “cleansed” by driving out the money changers (the Jewish leaders required some offerings in certain currency). The merchants who sold doves for the poor and other offerings (purchased as authorized and acceptable to the priests) used this area. There were evidently even people carrying merchandise through the area (the <i>NIV Study Bible</i> note indicates it was being used as a shortcut to other market areas of the city). See Matthew 11:15-17. The temple was to be a house of prayer for all nations.</p>	<p>Why was this Gentile courtyard area of the temple the largest area?</p> <p>Why wasn't this area being used for worship and prayer the way God intended?</p> <p>Where and when do I see those ungodly qualities around me or in my own life?</p>
<p>John 12:21</p>	<p>Even non-Jewish people who feared and worshiped God had heard about Jesus because he had become widely known.</p>	<p>Why would those who were not Jewish but worshiped and feared God want to see Jesus?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:22</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>When the message was relayed to Jesus...</p>	<p>Do I bring seekers to Jesus?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p>John 12:23</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 300px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>he knew that the purpose the Father had sent him to accomplish, of drawing all people groups to God, was completed. He would be lifted up on a cross, for all to see and find salvation.</p>	<p>Are there any people or nations that don't need or "deserve" to know about Jesus? Do I personally treat all people the same?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 120px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>What am I doing to ensure the gospel message goes to all nations?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 120px; width: 100%;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:24</p>	<p>Jesus knew that if he decided to preserve his life rather than go to the cross, we would all be lost. In contrast, he knew that His death would produce a kingdom for God composed of the multitudes through the centuries who are true followers of Jesus.</p>	<p>How are God's ways, not my ways? (What is God doing that I would do differently?)</p> <p>Why are God's ways better than mine?</p>
<p>John 12:25</p>	<p>We all have the same choice Jesus had: live for ourselves, one brief inconsequential life, or lay it down in humility and obedience to the Father.</p>	<p>How am I trying to preserve my life here on earth?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:26</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 1062" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 372px;"></div>	<p>If we are dedicated to serving Jesus, we will follow him. Eventually that will lead us to heaven, and we can be assured that our life will be honored by our Heavenly Father, whether our life seems notable or goes unnoticed in the eyes of the world.</p>	<p>What are some of the ways, large or small, that I am currently serving Jesus?</p> <div data-bbox="789 310 1515 625" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px;"></div> <p>How might I contribute to the growth of God's kingdom in the time I have here on earth? (How can I help to bring people to Jesus, and how can I encourage the body of believers in Christ?)</p> <div data-bbox="789 756 1515 1062" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 146px;"></div>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:27</p>	<p>Jesus came to give his life. It was not an easy thing that God asked of him. We know from Matthew 26:39 that Jesus asked the Father to spare him from the suffering that was ahead of him if possible but that Jesus' ultimate prayer was for God's will to be done. It is not wrong to ask for God to change circumstances as long as we are also asking for God's will to take precedence over our own desires, and as long as we are willing to accept God's answer.</p>	<p>What is my prayer when something difficult is ahead of me?</p>
<p>John 12:28a</p>	<p>Jesus wanted God's will to be done. Jesus wanted God to be glorified.</p>	<p>What do I want out of life?</p>
<p>John 12:28b</p>	<p>If my desire truly is for God to be glorified in my life, I only need to be obedient. I do not need to worry: God is able to bring glory to his name.</p>	<p>What fears do I have about my life bringing glory to God? Can I entrust all of my fears to God?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:29</p>	<p>Those who did not hear Jesus' words did not understand God's reply. Those staying close to Jesus will hear and know the Heavenly Father. The one who actually prays is the one who will recognize God's specific answer to that prayer.</p>	<p>What current activity would I like God to bless and be glorified through? Have I asked him to bring glory to himself through that activity or project?</p> <p>Do I expect God to answer my prayer?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:30</p>	<p>God endorsed Jesus as his Son for the benefit of his followers. Jesus' followers heard both his prayer and the Father's answer. Their faith was no doubt strengthened by personally observing the close relationship between God and his Son, Jesus. It would help them to believe later when Jesus died and was resurrected.</p> <p>When God, the Father, reveals who his Son is, it is for our benefit.</p> <p>God hears the prayers of Jesus. Now, Jesus, by his completed sacrifice and position in heaven next to the Father, is continually praying for and interceding for us (Hebrews 7:23-28). Both the Father and the Son are working for our benefit!</p>	<p>How have I benefited from learning that Jesus is God's Son?</p> <p>How do I benefit from Jesus' intercession on my behalf?</p>
<p>John 12:31</p>	<p>The crucifixion was not a weakness on God's part, but a victory and a judgment on evil. The greatest in God's kingdom (Jesus!) is indeed the servant of all. (Philippians 2:5-11)</p>	<p>Why does goodness sometimes seem weak and evil strong in this world?</p> <p>What is the truth about good and evil?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:32</p>	<p>Death on a cross was reserved for criminals. It was not normally a redeeming or attractive death. However, Jesus' death was the means of drawing people to God, to salvation, to Jesus and his new way of life.</p>	<p>What is it about Christ's death that draws people to him?</p>
<p>John 12:33</p>	<p>Jesus died literally lifted up on a cross for all to see and symbolically lifted up for all to look to for salvation.</p>	<p>Whom do I "lift up" or champion to others? Why?</p> <p>How can I "lift up" Jesus instead?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:34</p>	<p>We have previously seen that Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man (someone eternal who looks like a human) of Daniel 7:13-14. We have seen that the Messiah is an eternal king according to Isaiah 9:7 and Daniel 7:13-14.</p> <p>The Jewish people could not understand that his earthly, kingly reign would be delayed by his death, resurrection, and intercession for their eternal salvation.</p>	<p>What negatives come to my life because Jesus is not yet ruling as king on earth?</p> <p>What benefits come to me now because Jesus is in heaven seated at the right hand of God the Father?</p> <p>What are some of the greatest benefits of God's patience in waiting longer to reveal his Son Jesus as the king to rule the earth? (II Peter 3:7-15)</p> <p>How will I personally benefit when Jesus actually reigns forever on earth?</p>
<p>John 12:35</p>	<p>Jesus knew that the time of his death was drawing near. Being with Jesus is like having light to see and walk and live.</p>	<p>How does spending time with Jesus through scripture and prayer give me light and illuminate my life?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:36</p>	<p>Jesus encouraged people to put their trust in him while he was still there with them showing them the Father and showing them how to live.</p> <p>He hid himself because the people either wanted to kill him or to crown him, neither of which was God's intention on that day. God did soon after this allow those who wanted to kill Jesus to do so. Instead of a kingly crown, they gave him a crown of thorns which he wore for our sakes. When Jesus returns to earth, he will come as king, crowned by God with many crowns, (Revelation 19:12)</p>	<p>How do Jesus' life and words show me how to live in response to the circumstances I face <i>today</i>?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:37</p>	<p>Miraculous signs do not necessarily lead people to belief. There are many miraculous occurrences every day for those with eyes of faith to see.</p>	<p>What miracles has God done in the past in my life that I have forgotten about?</p> <p>What everyday miracles (God's goodness exhibited on earth) do I see today?</p>
<p>John 12:38</p>	<p>See Isaiah 53:1-5. God knew that it would be difficult for those in power with their own system established, to set it aside for Jesus.</p>	<p>What do I have that I can't set aside for Jesus?</p>
<p>John 12:39</p>	<p>The unbelief of people who should have received Jesus was foretold...</p>	<p>What does God think of my idol (what I can't set aside for Jesus)?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:40</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 898" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 294px;"></div>	<p>and their unbelief was eventually reinforced by God himself. See Isaiah 6:10.</p>	<p>Would I rather give that idol to Jesus, or suffer spiritual blindness, hardness of heart, and the absence of God's presence and healing in my life?</p> <div data-bbox="789 344 1524 588" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 116px;"></div> <p>Have I ever experienced the joy and peace that follows placing something precious to me in God's hands?</p> <div data-bbox="789 659 1524 898" style="border: 1px solid black; height: 114px;"></div>

What do I need to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:41</p>	<p>God gave Isaiah, a prophet 700 years before Jesus, the revelation that God would someday send a suffering servant to give his life for the Jewish people and for the Gentiles as well. It was God's intention that this servant become the means of salvation for all people. God used even the hardness of heart of those who did not walk with him, through their rejection of his Son, to accomplish his purposes for the world.</p>	<p>If God can use hardened hearts, can God use me, despite my mistakes, for his glory if I ask him to?</p>
<p>John 12:42</p>	<p>Those Jewish leaders who were not walking with God, but merely exercising authority and privilege, would not recognize Jesus for who he was because they did not know or believe the Scriptures and their hearts were not practiced in discerning good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). Their hearts were not right before God. Those who knew the Scriptures and lived by them, knew who Jesus was, but if they were in positions of importance, many kept their knowledge to themselves to keep their positions.</p>	<p>What does my heart look like from God's perspective?</p> <p>Do I keep my knowledge of Jesus to myself to preserve my position?</p>
<p>John 12:43</p>	<p>They would rather be comfortable in this life and not think about their relationship with God and what he expects.</p>	<p>Is my view a short-sighted, selfish one that prioritizes acceptance and praise from the world, or an obedient, eternal view seeking praise from God? Can I give a recent example from my life?</p>

Day 147 **Read John 12:41-43**

What would I like to say to Jesus?

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What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:44</p>	<p>Belief in Jesus is the same as believing in God. Following Jesus meets all of God's requirements.</p>	<p>If I believe Jesus and walk with him, do I need to be afraid of God?</p>
<p>John 12:45</p>	<p>Jesus represents God the Father to the world. (Hebrews 1:1-3)</p>	<p>Based on Jesus' words and life, what are God's intentions toward those who are in Christ? (Ephesians 5:25-27, II Peter 3:13-14)</p> <p>How should I respond? (Hebrews 4:15-16)</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:46</p>	<p>Following Jesus is like walking with the lights on instead of stumbling around in the dark. Jesus reveals God's heart to us. Jesus tells us how to live in ways that please God.</p>	<p>What signs of light do I see in my life because I know Jesus?</p> <p>What signs of light do I see in the lives of others who know Jesus?</p>

What would I like to say to Jesus?

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:47</p>	<p>Jesus' words are words of salvation if they are heard, believed, and lived out. God has chosen to delay judgment and offer salvation to any who call on Jesus. Hallelujah, today is the day of salvation! (II Corinthians 5:17-6:2)</p>	<p>Am I hearing, believing, and living out Jesus' words? Can I give a recent example from my life?</p>
<p>John 12:48</p>	<p>Jesus' words are words of condemnation if they are rejected. Jesus did not have to worry about judging each person while he lived here on earth, because their response to Jesus' words will ultimately make clear their salvation or condemnation when the time for judgment comes.</p>	<p>Do I need to condemn people who currently reject Jesus and the words of Jesus, or can I wait for Jesus' words to judge them based on their final life choices?</p>
<p>John 12:49</p>	<p>The reason Jesus' words are so decisive in giving life is that they are from God.</p>	<p>Do I need to feel hesitant about telling others what Jesus said?</p>

What It Says	Meaning/Principles	What It Means to Me
<p>John 12:50</p> <div data-bbox="100 281 428 630"></div>	<p>Jesus was very careful to say what God told him to say because Jesus knew it would result in our salvation. Jesus' words, at the insistence of the Father, provide life not just now but for all eternity!</p>	<p>Whose words should I speak to others?</p> <div data-bbox="789 281 1524 630"></div>

What should I say to Jesus?