

*“If I Am Lifted Up”*  
John 12:27-36  
Reading: Genesis 1:20-2:3

Bethany Baptist Church  
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*...pray...*

Jesus constantly invited people to follow Him...

John 4:4 – Jesus identified Himself as *living water*. Soon a *Samaritan woman* and her *entire village* are swept up in a revival!

John 6:25 – Jesus *fed* a crowd then *offered* an invitation: “*I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.*”

John 7:37 – Jesus taught during the *Feast of Booths* and then on the last day, “*Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’*”

Jesus soon spoke again (8:12) – “*I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.*”

The Good Shepherd calls to His sheep (10:7, 9) – “*Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ... I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*”

The Gospel of John is full of *invitations to follow Jesus*.

What does it mean when Jesus **stops** *inviting*?

**Join me in John 12: 27-36.**

Jesus expresses the *weight* and the *urgency* of His hour.

And then He offers His *final public invitation*!

**The hour of the *cross* is the hour of God’s *glory*.**

**27-28 – The cross and God’s *glory*.**

**29-33 – The cross and God’s *judgment*.**

**34-36 – The cross and God’s *offer*.**

## The cross and God's glory (read vv.27-28).

1. It was early **Passover Week**.
  - a. *Philip* and *Andrew* had just showed up with news of a contingent of *Greek Passover pilgrims*.
  - b. They had requested an *audience* with Jesus (20-221). “*Sir (to Philip), we want to see Jesus.*”
  - c. Jesus’ reply is *unexpected* and *profound* (23): “***The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified!***”
  - d. “*The hour has come...*” Jesus is about to *die*. The *single seed* (24) that will bear an eternal, worldwide *harvest*. And the Son of Man will be *glorified*.
  
2. Immediately (v.27 – *now*) the *prospect of death* leads Jesus to *bear His soul*; *everyone* can hear Him speak: the *hour has come* and He is *troubled*.
  - a. The word for *troubled* (Gr. **ταρασσω** –*agitated*) is in the *perfect tense*. Jesus has been *struggling*, and it’s becoming *more intense*, and now He just has to *say* something!
  - b. But what does the *God-Man* say when His *soul is stirred* by the *prospect of crucifixion...?*
  - c. He ***could*** say (He voices it out loud): “*Father, save Me from this hour!*”
    - i. He *could* say it and He *did* say it, but **not** as a *prayer* – we might say it’s *rhetorical*.
    - ii. In a few more *days/nights*, He’ll voice this *same struggle* at *Gethsemane*.
    - iii. But remember (27), Jesus doesn’t *pray* this, He simply *confesses* that He is *tempted* to.

- d. In His *struggle*, stirred in the troubled depths of His *soul*, Jesus rejects the *complaint* and chosēs *holy submission*:
  - i. “*But for this purpose I came to **this hour**.*”
  - ii. There it is *again!* – “*this hour.*” *This hour* encompasses the very *reason* God sent Jesus into our *sin-enslaved world*.
  - iii. To *die* for the sins of *all* who believe Him; *every* sin of *every* believer of *every* age of *every* race (Jew & Greek): *past, present, & future*.
  - iv. “*...for **this purpose** I came.*”
  
3. And then our Savior *does* pray! It is *brief*, He will pray in like manner in *Gethsemane*. Many believe that it is the most important prayer that God’s people can ever pray: “*Father, glorify Your name.*”
  - a. The **Gethsemane** prayer is like it: “*Yet **not** what I will, but what You will!*”
  - b. Let’s pause a make a brief application... The Christian’ most important prayer is **not** a prayer for *prosperity* or *healing*. It is a prayer that her/his life, with all its troubles, would *glorify God by pointing to the cross*.
  - c. In the hour that **most** troubles your soul – *God’s will be done, glorify Your Name*.
  
4. God *answered* Jesus’ prayer; *out-loud*, so everyone could hear: *disciples, pilgrims, Jews, Greeks, followers, Pharisees!*
  - a. “*I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*”
  - b. His thunderous reply **can’t** be missed: Jesus **will** die, but **not** because God has *rejected* Him.

- c. Jesus will die for the *glory of God's name*.
- i. God has *already* glorified His name in the *life* of His Son.
    1. *Teaching, healing, confronting.*
    2. From *turning water into wine* in Cana to *raising Lazarus* from that grave in Bethany.
  - ii. But the *best is yet to come* – and soon!
    1. Christ will be *crucified* bearing sins – though **not** His own! **1 Pt 2:24** – *He Himself bore **our** sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*
    2. He will be *buried* in Joseph's empty tomb.
    3. He will be *raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*. The angel by that empty grave (Luke 24:5): *“Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? He is not here, **but He has risen!**” 2X*
  - iii. And even *this* will not be *all* the glory!
    1. **After** His *resurrection*, Jesus *appeared* to many over a period of **40** days!
    2. Then He *ascended* to Heaven and was *seated* (Heb 1:3) at the *right hand* of the Majesty on high!
    3. From the *right hand* of His Father's throne, Jesus now *makes intercession for His people*... (Rom 8; Heb 7).
    4. *And from there* (Heaven's throne-room) *Jesus will soon return to rescue, to conquer, to judge, and to rule ... forevermore!*

**So this is the hour, and this is the cross, and in this is the manifest glory of God and His Son!**

## The cross and God's judgment (read vv.29-33).

1. *"I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again!"* For only the *third time* in the Gospels, God speaks out loud (*Jesus' baptism, Mount of Trans, now in Jerusalem*). The crowd is *confused* and *divided* about what they heard.
  - a. *Most* believed they had heard *thunder*.
  - b. *Some* believed they had heard the *voice of an angel*.
  - c. Their confusion is a *clue* that the crowd is already *growing hard-hearted*.
    - i. God's declaration was a response to Jesus' prayer (*"Father, glorify Your name."*).
    - ii. But mostly it was God's *testimony* to the crowd (read v.30).
    - iii. A testimony that the **cross** was a *good thing*, not a *bad thing*.
2. Then Jesus *unpacks* the importance of *God's words* and of *"the hour"* that has come. It's all about *judgment*. **Read vv.31-32.**
  - a. Don't miss Jesus' repeated use of the word *"now."* It is an emphatic *echo* of vv. 23 & 27:
    - i. V.23 – *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*
    - ii. V.27 – *"Now My soul has become troubled."*
  - b. When **I** think about the *glory of the cross* I think about *salvation – full atonement*. But Jesus says the *outcome* of this hour (*the hour of the cross*) is *judgment!*
    - i. Jesus' *pronouncement of judgment* can be framed up around **four expressions** (31,32): *brought on, cast out, lifted up, drawn to*.
    - ii. *Brought on*. The cross brings *judgment* upon the entire world.

- iii. *Cast out.* In the cross, **Satan** (*the ruler of this dark world system*) was not simply *set back*, he was *cast out*.
1. One commentator points out *when Jesus' paid for your sins on the cross, Satan lost all grounds for accusing you! 2X*
  2. Rom 8: *Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*
- iv. *Lifted up.* Now is the hour for Jesus to be *lifted up*. He means *crucified* – an execution for a criminal. But the cross is where *Jesus* suffered, *sins* were paid for, and *God* is glorified.
- v. *Drawn to.* The cross *draws* God's people to God's Son. That is *judgment* against those who **refuse** to come!
1. Paul wrote (1 Cor 1:18): *the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...*
  2. **v.23** – *...we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness...*
  3. The cross *judges* by separating *believers* from *unbelievers*, the *elect* from the reprobate, the *sheep* from the goats.
3. John (33) explains that when Jesus says "*lifted up*" He is previewing His *death* on **Golgotha's cross**.
- a. **Lifted up** was *He to die*, **full atonement** was *His cry!* Now in heaven *exalted high, Hallelujah...what a Savior!*

## The cross and God's offer (read vv.34-36).

1. If you think about v.34 carefully, it is clear the crowd *understood* what Jesus meant when He said "*lifted up.*" *Death* on a cross.
  - a. But also remember how the Passover crowd *viewed* Jesus (e.g. Triumphal Entry) ...
  - b. He *was* the Messiah. But they believed that He had come as a *conquering king* – a *super-sized version* of King David. A ruler who had come to *run out* the Romans and *restore* Israel's glory.
  - c. They appealed to *the Law* (= OT), which they *interpreted* to mean that Messiah would *live forever!*
    - i. In fact, *that's true!*
    - ii. But they were looking to promises about His *second coming* without understanding His *first coming*.
  - d. So they heard Jesus' *preview of His death*, and were immediately *skeptical!* They were beginning to doubt if they had applauded the *right Man...!*
  - e. "*The Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?*"
  - f. As if it say, "*What kind of Son of Man are You talking about!?!*"
  
2. But instead of a *rebuke*, Jesus' offers the crowd an *invitation...*
  - a. Jesus is the *Light!* The *Son of Man* is the *Light of the World!* **John 8:12** – "*I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.*"
  - b. Jesus offers an *escape from darkness* and a *new life* as His sons and daughters of Light.
  - c. **How?** By *believing* in the Light (36) and *walking* in the Light (*repentance*; 35). *Repentance & faith...*

- d. But there are also a couple of *warnings* that must accompany every *explanation* of the gospel.
- i. *First*, if you won't *walk* into the light, you'll be *overwhelmed* by darkness and *lose your way*.
    1. **V.25**- *Walk while you have the Light, so that the darkness will not overtake you; he who walks into the darkness does not know where he is going.*
  - ii. *Second warning*: there is an *expiration date* on Jesus' *invitation!*
    1. Jesus cautioned them: "*For a **little while longer** the Light is with you.*"
    2. And *twice* He warned: "*Walk **while you have the Light.***" "***While you have the Light**, believe in the Light.*"
    3. After all, the "*hour had come for the Son of Man to be lifted up from the earth.*"
3. John's closing comment (36.b) on Jesus' invitation is *intriguing!* *These things Jesus spoke, and He **went away** and **hid** Himself from them.*
- a. Jesus *ends* His invitation and *leaves* so He can *hide* himself from them.
  - b. The crowd has *questioned* Him, even *mocked* Him, but it **hasn't** *threatened* Him...
  - c. And John **doesn't** tell us that *His time had not yet come*...because Jesus has just told us (23) that it *had come!*
  - d. **Why** did Jesus *hide* Himself...?
  - e. *Judgment!* This is Jesus' *final public presentation* of the gospel in the Gospel of John.
  - f. If the crowd *walks away* from the Light now, they will be *overcome* by darkness.

**It is a mistake to think that God is on your schedule.**

That you can *put off* Jesus' offer of eternal life.

What would you think if you had just heard your *last sermon* about Jesus?

...your *last explanation* of the gospel,

...your *last warning* about hell and judgment,

...your *last appeal* to put your faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,

...your *last call* to repentance,

...followed by...**not** *one more word* (in this life) about Jesus?

Jesus says: "While you have the *Light*, **believe** in the *Light*, so that you may become sons of *Light*."

Please don't put Him off!

...*pray*...