

7.15.18 ~ John 12:23-33, "**Son of God: Son of Man.**"

**Read John 12:23-24...** The *hour for the Son of Man to be glorified* has to do with the Lamb of God, God's Son, going to the cross for the sins of the world and then being raised from the dead by the power of God, demonstrating that He has sovereign authority over sin, death, and judgement forever (see **John 1:29; Romans 1:1-4**).

Jesus declares (**John 12:24**), "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus had to die physically, taking upon Himself God's wrath (meant for us), making eternal spiritual life effectual.

The Jews thought they were the only "people of God," but after Christ's death and resurrection, the gospel would go far beyond the national boundaries of Israel, providing salvation for many people from every tribe, tongue and nation, i.e., the Gentiles would receive Him and become part of the flock of God.

**John 12:25-26...** Jesus is to be your first and foremost priority, not the pleasures of this life or this world. If you belong to Jesus, your purpose is to serve, honor and obey Him [His Word], demonstrating God's love and the eternal life you have received (cf. **Matthew 10:37-39, Luke 9:23-24**).

Although it is not very likely that you or I will have to give up our life [die] for Christ; Jesus is saying that we must be willing to give up everything in this world to follow Him. In **John 14:3**, Jesus tells the disciples (and through them, all of us), "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

All those who serve Christ (**John 12:26**) will be honored by the Father (**1Samuel 2:30**), "...those who honor Me I will honor."

Remember where we are in John's narrative, just five days from the cross - last week the Jews were ramping up to capture and kill Jesus, for they reject Him as their Messiah; then some Gentiles came to Philip asking to have an audience with Jesus, and it is to that inquiry that Jesus is saying these things about His death bringing eternal life to all those who believe in Him.

Chronologically, in less than a week, the Jews will cry out for Jesus' death, and He will die on the cross, making full payment to God; so that anyone believing in Him will be saved, both Jew and Gentile (see **Ephesians 2:14-16; 3:6**).

**Read John 12:27-28a...** Jesus is very troubled [lit. *disturbed, agitated, stirred up, shaken*]; this has to do with His mental and spiritual duress concerning what lies ahead. I can't imagine a holy, sovereign, eternal God putting on the flesh of a carnal creature like man, that has to be bad enough; but Jesus is also going to take upon Himself our sin, and He is going to suffer God's wrath as sin is judged and punished in Christ, although He Himself is sinless.

**2Corinthians 5:21**, "He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

**Galatians 3:13**, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'"

**1Peter 2:24**, "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."

**Hebrews 10:10**, "we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

**1John 2:2**, "He Himself [Jesus Christ] is the propitiation [full payment] for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world" (cf. **John 3:16**).

Jesus came to do the Father's will, that He should purchase a people for God by the shedding of His blood (**John 12:27c**), "But for this purpose I came to this hour." Both **John 7:30; 8:20** declare, "His hour had not yet come," but in **John 12:23** Jesus says, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," and now (**John 12:28a**), "Father, glorify Your name." Jesus came to glorify the Father through the death and resurrection of God's Son" (see **John 10:17-18**).

**Read John 12:28b-30...** The Father speaks from heaven for the third time during the ministry of Christ (baptism, Matthew 3:17; transfiguration, Matthew 17:5). Notice here, the Father says He has already glorified His name e.g., the conception announcement to Joseph and Mary; God's Son's birth, to the Shepherds in the fields: Jesus, Immanuel). The ultimate glorification will come at His death, "It is Finished," and His subsequent resurrection and appearing to His disciples and followers.

The people who heard God speak to Jesus thought it had thundered, or perhaps an angel had spoken to Jesus; but they clearly didn't understand what God said, for they were spiritually deaf.

Earlier in **John 8:47**, Jesus told the Pharisees that they couldn't understand Him or hear the words of God because they didn't belong to God; where as, in **John 10:27**, Jesus says His sheep hear His voice, they belong to Him and follow Him.

In **John 10:28-29** Jesus says, "I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Here in **John 12:30**, Jesus says the Father's audible voice wasn't for His sake, like Jesus needed to hear the Father in order to know the Father heard Him.

The Father's audible voice was for those who were there; specifically, to encourage the disciples who were going to lose their Lord and Master in just a few days, when He would be arrested and crucified.

Jesus wanted His disciples, those who would carry the gospel into all the

world, to hear with their own ears the very words of the Father.

**Read John 12:31-33...** All Scripture from the early days in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve sinned against God, has looked forward to the Cross of Christ; and everything since the Resurrection of the Lord has looked back to the Cross, which is central to Christianity.

The Cross brought God's judgement upon the whole world, not only the devil and his demons, but all those who rebel against God by rejecting God's Son (see **John 3:18-19** [8:12]; **5:22-27**; **6:28-29**; **8:24**; **10:30**).

Satan has tried to destroy God's plan since the Garden of Eden, when sin's curse entered our world (cf **Genesis 3:15**); the Cross crushed the devil's authority.

**1John 3:8**, "The devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil," (**Ephesians 2:2**, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience).

**Hebrews 2:14**, "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself [Jesus] likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives."

Slavery to sin and self has kept men, women and children of all ages in bondage to their own flesh, the devil, and the world system that opposes God and suppresses the truth of God; the cross of Christ brought judgment and condemnation to all who reject God's Son.

John the apostle, near the end of his life, writes this account, the last of the gospel narratives to be written; looking back 50-60 years to when Jesus entered Jerusalem as God's Lamb, for the purpose of taking away sin's curse through His own sacrificial death.

Jesus said (**John 12:24**), if a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it will produce a harvest. The ultimate victory is found in Christ's propitiatory death for all sin, i.e., making full payment to God for our sins.

Jesus says (**John 12:32**), "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." John tells us in **John 12:33**, that "He [Jesus] was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die."

As far back as **John 3:14-15**, Jesus made it clear that He had come to die so that we might gain life eternal, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life."

In **Matthew 16:16**, Peter proclaimed to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

For everyone who believes in Jesus, confessing Him as Lord, receiving Him as Savior, the cross is the provision of God for the forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

Only the Son of God could offer up Himself as the total payment for our sins, only the Son of Man could bleed and die as required by the Law (**Hebrews 9:22**), "according to the Law, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

John the apostle declared (**1John 5:11-13**), "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

If you aren't sure, if you have any doubts about your salvation, please see me, so we can talk about it.

Without the death of Jesus there is no forgiveness, without the resurrection of Jesus there is no proof of eternal life. Jesus, the Son of Man, bled and died on the cross; Jesus, the Son of God, rose from the grave on the third day, demonstrating His sovereign authority over sin, death and judgement, forever!

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