

# “The Gospel of John: Lifting Up the Son”

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## Scripture

### John 12:27-36

“**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. **“Father, glorify Your name.”** Then a voice came out of heaven: **‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.’”**

“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.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.”

“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. “And I, **if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.**” But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.”

“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?”

“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. **“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.”

## Last Week

The Greeks seek Jesus during the Passover Week

Jesus said that He was going to be glorified -> the trip to the cross was imminent

Jesus taught about true discipleship commitment

## This Week

Lifting up the Son brings opportunity

First, we see that Jesus makes a request to the Father

## The Son’s Request

### John 12:27

“**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. **‘Father, glorify Your name.’”**

Jesus says that His soul is troubled

What does He mean by that?

Is Jesus distraught about His personal circumstances?

The Greek word is *tarasso* which means “to be stirred up” or “disturbed” or “agitated”

It’s the same word used when the disciples were in the boat and think Jesus is a ghost

In that passage, **Matthew 14:26**, the NASB translated the word as “terrified”

Is Jesus terrified of the circumstances to come on the cross?

Is He afraid?

Put yourself in His shoes -> Jesus was always in communion with the Father -> “I and the Father are One”

Yet, he was going to be taking the wrath of the Father on Himself – facing a brief separation from the Father

He knew what the Father’s wrath was like -> He had seen it on display in the Old Testament

He was going to feel it all -> **Matthew 27:46** -> “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”

I wonder if we really understand what God’s wrath is like -> Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus?

Do you think those of our friends and family who are not walking with Jesus understand the penalty of Hell?

It is eternal separation from the Father!

“what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ -> Jesus speaks rhetorically

“You think I’m going to try and avoid it?”

“But for this purpose, I came to this hour” -> “I came to Earth FOR this purpose”

“‘Father, glorify Your name.’ -> ”Jesus then asks the for the Father to be glorified

It is all about the Father’s glory for Jesus

It should be the same for us:

**1 Corinthians 6:20**

“For you have been bought with a price: therefore, **glorify God in your body.**”

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

“Whether then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**”

## 1 Peter 4:11 (concerning using spiritual gifts)

“**Whoever speaks**, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; **whoever serves** is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; **so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.** Amen.”

The Father responds to Jesus’s request:

### The Father’s Affirmation

#### John 12:28

“Then a voice came out of heaven: ‘**I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.**’”

The Father only spoke out loud three times in Jesus’s life

- |                             |              |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1) At His Baptism           | Matthew 3:17 | “This is My Beloved Son” |
| 2) At His Transfiguration   | Matthew 17:5 | “This is My Beloved Son” |
| 3) Here, at Jesus’s request |              |                          |

God is focused on His Holy Name

#### Isaiah 42:8

“I am the LORD, that is My name; **I will not give My glory to another**, Nor My praise to graven images.”

Is it any wonder that the first commandment He gave to Moses was:

#### Exodus 20:3

“You shall have **no other gods before Me.**”

#### Exodus 34:14

“For **you shall not worship any other god**, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God”

Jesus will glorify the Father

The Father will glorify Himself through the Son

#### John 12:29-30

“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.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.”

The people hear the Father’s voice – **it sounds like thunder!**

They think it may be an angel

Jesus responds that it was for the people's sake that the Father spoke out loud

The same was true at His baptism and His transfiguration

**These instances authenticated Jesus as the Son of God**

**John 5:37** (Jesus told the Jews about His witnesses)

"The Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me"

The disciples at Jesus's transfiguration: Peter, James, and John heard the Father say, "Listen to Him!"

### **Lifting Up the Son**

**John 12:31-33**

"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. "And I, **if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.**" But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die."

John wrote that Jesus did not come to judge the world -> **John 3:17**

Yet, Jesus said that the Father's plan was to give all judgment to the Son:

**John 5:22-23**

"For not even the Father judges anyone, but **He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father.** He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

After His resurrection:

**Matthew 28:18**

"Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**"

Jesus said, "now the ruler of this world will be cast out" – Satan is the ruler of this world

On the cross, Jesus said "It is finished!"

In the Greek, you could translate that line "He is finished!" – Satan is finished, he is judged already

"**And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.**"

As a young deacon in my 20s, my first Deacon mentor quoted this verse and said:

"See, Geoffrey, we just need to lift Him up in praise and people will come to Him"

**Is that what this verse means?** -> Of course, we should praise Him among the people -> **Psalms 57:9**

"Lifted up" was being crucified -> as John comments on Jesus's words:

"But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die."

Jesus's sacrifice on the cross provided the means, the payment for our sins, to enable many to come to Him

Contrast this verse: "I will draw all men to Myself" with **John 6:44**

#### **John 6:44**

"No one can come to Me **unless the Father who sent Me draws him**; and I will raise him up on the last day."

Does it take both the Father and the Son to draw people to Him?

Or is Jesus God just like the Father is God?

When Jesus said, "I and the Father are One", we know the answer is the latter

Jesus said the Jews would know that He is God when He is lifted up:

#### **John 8:28-29**

"So, Jesus said, '**When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He**, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.'"

Jesus draws His own to Himself -> If you are in Christ, Jesus has pulled you into the Kingdom

#### **Who Is the Son of Man?**

The people ask for some clarity

#### **John 12:34**

"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?"

"If you're the Messiah and God as you say, then why are you going to be killed?"

Did the Old Testament say that the Messiah would reign forever?

Yes, Daniel prophesied of the eternal reign of the Son:

#### **Daniel 7:13-14**

"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. "**And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him**. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And **His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.**"

The Son came before the Father, the Ancient of Days, and was given reign over the people to be served

The New Testament said the same:

**Luke 1:30-33** (Mary promised to carry the Christ child)

“The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. "**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.**”

That promise is fulfilled in Revelation when John writes about voices from Heaven:

**Revelation 11:15**

“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and **He will reign forever and ever.**’”

So, what happened?

**Did they misunderstand something?**

Yes, they missed the prophecy of Daniel 9:

**Daniel 9:26**

“After the sixty-two weeks **the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing**, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.”

They missed the prophecy of Isaiah 53:

**Isaiah 53:3-5**

“He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. **But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him**, and by His scourging we are healed.”

**Who is the Son of Man?**

Jesus, our God who became human to reach us -> **Our Emmanuel** -> God with Us

**The Importance of the Light**

**John 12:35-36**

“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.** "**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.”

John loves to use the comparison of light and darkness

Jesus called Himself the Light of the World

The Jews wonder who Jesus is, even when He clearly says He is God

**“For a little while longer the Light is among you.”** -> “You have Me around for just a little while”

Less than a week, by this timing

**“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.”**

Jesus tells them to walk while they have the Light -> the Light was spiritual enlightenment

**We need to walk in the Light -> “does not know where he goes” -> meaning “where he is being led”**

They all had Jesus sharing vital truths with them about both earthly life and eternal life

**“While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.”**

While they had the Light

Jesus called them to believe in the Light

So that they could become children of the Light

You need spiritual enlightenment to understand the Bible -> to understand the Kingdom

**How many of them were yelling “Crucify Him” just a few days later?**

Think about our situation with our family and other loved ones

They may only have your Light around for a short time from now

**We need to call them to believe in the Light so they may become children of Light**

**Matthew 5:16**

**“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”**

May God through His Spirit continually inspire us to share His Light with others

**Prayer**

**Benediction**