

Woodland Baptist Church
 October 12, 2014 - Morning Worship
 John 12:27-36 - The Son of Man must be Lifted Up

1) INTRODUCTION

2) READ JOHN 12:27-36

- a) **Daniel 7:13-14** - "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came **one like a son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an **everlasting dominion**, which shall not pass away, and **his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed**.

3) **Verses 27-28** Christ's PRAYS as his time to DIE draws near

- a) **27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name."**
- i) This prayer is much like the Gethsemane prayer - **Mark 14:34-36** - 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." 35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."
- b) *Now my soul is troubled* [tarasso] the word used here is the same as used in John 11 when Christ was at the tomb of Lazarus - it means to be **deeply disturbed and troubled in spirit**; to be moved deep within your emotions and spirit; to be filled **shock and trauma from a given situation**.
- i) I don't know exactly what Christ felt in these situations, all I can do is describe to you what I have felt at times when I was deeply distressed. When you realize that someone has betrayed you or that a loved ones life is in jeopardy, or when you suddenly realize that eminent danger is coming to you or your family, this consuming sense of distress comes over you...and here Christ in his humanity goes through something very similar as his "soul is troubled."

- ii) When the Greeks seek out Christ, it seems to be an indicator to him that the time has come for him to die, “24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.”
- c) **And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.”**
- i) Christ thinks out loud for us - “what will I say...how will I respond to this crossroad of my life...will I seek deliverance?” No, because this is the reason I have come to earth, for this hour, to reclaim humanity from the enemy...“Father glorify your name.”
- ii) Notice Christ’s willingness to embrace suffering; Christ was fully human, and as any human would, he ponders the possibility of avoiding what lies ahead, but then quickly reverses it to a full acceptance of what is to come for the glorify of God the Father.
- (1) Wouldn’t it be nice if we as his people were more willing to suffer for God? But most of us do everything in our power to make life as comfortable, effortless and convenient as possible and we push others to to the same...Jesus went to the cross! We argue over money and decision making...politics and policies. We are all in such a big hurry to be raptured out - no one wants to follow the way of persecution and death.
- (2) We would do well to remember, **Ignatius of Antioch**, that followed the apostolic witness in that city. Ignatius went toe to toe with the Roman Emperor Trajan. Trajan began to try to syncretize all religions into the Roman cult, Ignatius would not budge on it...Trajan came to Antioch and debated Ignatius...it got so fierce, Trajan sentenced him to death, seized him, took him to Rome and fed him to the Lions.
- (a) “Permit me to imitate my suffering God... I am God's wheat and I shall be ground by the teeth of beasts, that I may become the pure bread of Christ.”
- iii) **Hebrews 5:7-10** - 7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made

perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

4) **Verses 29-33** World is JUDGED, Satan is CAST Out, Believers are DRAWN

a) Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

i) The Father answers Christ's prayer audibly - God the Father did this three times:

(1) **Mark 1:11** - when John the Baptist baptizes Christ - 11 And a voice came from heaven, "*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.*"

(2) **Mark 9:7** - at the transfiguration when Peter James and John are with Christ on the mountain and Christ was transfigured before them into the Shekinah glory of God and Elijah and Moses appeared and spoke with Jesus...7 *And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."*

(3) **Our passage for today** - "Father glorify your name." "I have glorified it and I will glorify it again."

b) Notice the two reactions of the crowd to the Father's voice:

i) Some heard it and described it as thunder - **natural explanation**

ii) Some heard it and described it as angelic - **supernatural explanation**

(1) Very interesting that they could not seem to understand it, much like when **Paul was converted** - those who were with him heard the sound, but failed to hear distinct words.

c) Jesus clarifies the voice to those around him - 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

i) *The voice has come for your sake not mine* - how could that be if most of the folks could not understand what was said? The answer is, the sound coming from above in a thunderous manner and coming immediately after the prayer, was a clear indication that the Father had heard the Son's request.

(1) We should recall another time when Christ verbally talks to the Father in his prayer at the tomb of Lazarus when he says, "for the sake of the crowd standing around, so that they might believe that you sent me."¹

ii) **31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.**

(1) Now...

(a) **judgment of this world** - in just a few days, Christ would be rejected and crucified, and the ironic part of the entire event, is that the Jews and Romans would think they had put Christ down and ended him forever, when in fact, they condemned themselves when they killed him and completed a large part of God's redemptive plan.

(b) Part of the judgment of the world is the ruler of this world being cast out - this is the language of exorcism; students of John, remember there are no exorcisms the gospel of John, as there are in the synoptic gospels...here, John tell us of one huge one exorcism as Satan, the ruler of the world is cast out!

(i) Follow up - this does not mean he does not try to cause damage, he does and will continue until the consummation of the age, the final separation at the end times when the angels come in flames of fire and Christ mounted on the white horse!

¹ Michaels, 695

iii) **32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.**

(1) Christ is saying that his crucifixion and death is when he is *lifted up from the earth* - they will take his beaten bruised and half broken body...nail his wrists and ankles to the cross and lift him up into the air...suspending him between heaven and earth...left to die a horrible, painful, shameful death before a humiliating crowd, all the while being jeered and mocked.

(a) Through this act of being lifted up to this place of agonizing and torturous death...somehow through a miracle of God...will draw all people to myself.

(b) Jesus had said this to Nicodemus in John 3 - **4 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**

iv) We hear those terms a lot today - most of the time it's people saying, "I want to be lifted up." I think it's real interesting that the only way Scripture ever speaks of being "lifted up," it's by crucifixion. I can promise you that Christ did not feel good when he was on the cross; and its interesting that when we say we want to be lifted up and when Christ says he will be lifted up - it's two totally different things.

(a) When Christ says it - it's salvation, it's glorification, it's about the full revelation of God.

(b) When we say it, it's a feeling - I want to be lifted up.

5) **Verses 34-36 Christ OFFERS the gospel LIGHT**

a) **34 So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" 35 So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."**

i) The crowds question must be addressed for a moment...**We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever.** What do they mean by this question?

(1) **1 Corinthians 1:23** - 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

ii) What law? What do they mean by remaining forever?

(1) Most likely the law refers to the **entire Old Testament** - the law and the prophets.

(2) Remaining forever - the Messiah must be an eternal ruler, so they must be referring to passage like:

(a) Psalm 110:4 - The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

(b) Isaiah 9:6-7 - Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

(c) 2 Samuel 7:13 - 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

(d) Psalm 132:12 - If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne."

iii) So those that are hearing Christ realize that he is **speaking of his death by crucifixion** and it does not fit their beliefs of what they understood concerning the word of God. They understand the Messiah's coming as a permanent rule for all eternity...so how can the **Son of Man** be crucified and die?

b) 35 So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

i) Christ presented himself for salvation to them right then and there - he basically says, "believe in me."

ii) *The light's sovereign timing* - the light is among you for a little while longer

(1) Soon, Christ would be arrested, tried and convicted and crucified, resurrected and ascended. There was a time limit on his physical presence on the earth - the time they would have access to the physical Christ was now and it was quickly coming to a close.

- iii) *Light's place of presence* - the light was found in one place and one place only, Jesus Christ.
- iv) *The light's urgent warning* - walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.
- v) *The light's special invitation* - while you have the light, believe in the light so you may become sons of light.

6) CLOSE