

29- We Would See Jesus Lifted Up John 12:20-33

Recently on the game show wheel of fortune they expanded the word to include things that had a word in the middle that was used twice and the saying was doubled. I want to use this method tonight in our study if you would allow. The title tonight, in that format, would be “We would see Jesus, Jesus lifted up.” This is a two part title. First is we would see Jesus and second is Jesus lifted up.

I- Request of the Gentiles:

John 12:20 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: 21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying...

These certain Greeks here were also known as Hellenist. There are three possibilities of who they were. One was Jews who spoke only the Greek language. This is why the Old Testament was translated in to Greek known as the Septuagint. Another possibility was that they were Gentiles who were Jewish proselytes. Another is that they were only Gentiles who were not proselytes but interesting in who Jesus was by His works.

I favor the second of these because they are in Jerusalem for Passover. If this is true, this is an early instant that we have of Gentiles seeking Messiah.

II- We Would See Jesus:

They bring their request to Philip. They wanted to have an audience with Jesus. *John 12:21b ...Sir, we would see Jesus. 22 Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.*

We are told in the Bible in *Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*

The Holy Spirit, as He begins to draw, often in perceived by those draws and those around them as simple curiosity.

The message is relayed through the Apostles to Jesus that they desire to see Him.

III- His Hour is Come:

John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Throughout His ministry thus far we often hear that His hour was not yet come.

Joh 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

Joh 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

Joh 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

Now He declares that His time has come. He had set His face toward Jerusalem and came to the city knowing that His time had come to die.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Jesus in His death touched many more than He did in life. His death has brought forth much fruit.

John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

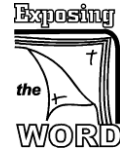
Remember when Jesus was being arrested in the Garden that Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest? Jesus makes some telling remarks there that show



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us that if He had desired to be delivered from the suffering that the angels were standing by waiting.

Matthew 26:53-54 *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?*

Jesus realized that His hour was come. We are not told that He ever gave an audience to the Greeks who were seeking.

IV- Glorified by the Father:

This scene that is taking place is one in public. It seemed the Greeks wanted a more private meeting with Him to me. The next event that occurred would certainly have verified for many of His Messiah-ship.

Jesus speaks to the Father. **John 12:28** *Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.*

We know that at Jesus baptism that a very similar event took place of God speaking. **Mat 3:17** *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Also on the mount of transfiguration again the voice of the Father. **Matthew 17:5** *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

This is the third time that Christ has been glorified in this way. We might call this a verification of Him as well.

The perception of the people to this was varied. **John 12:29** *The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.*

Jesus told them that it was not for His benefit but for theirs. It was to facilitate faith in their hearts.

John 12:30 *Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.*

V- Jesus Lifted Up:

Now to our second part. Notice what Jesus said in **John 12:32** *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

We know that the drawing to Jesus is done by the Holy Spirit as well as God the Father. **Joh 6:44** *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...*

John 8:28 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

Jesus said that if He was lifted up that men would be drawn to Him. This was pre-shadowed for us in the wilderness with the serpent being lifted up by Moses in the wilderness. **Joh 3:14** *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

Remember that the Gentiles have been injected into the equation. Notice that in **John 12:32** Jesus said "All men."

The gospel is for all men, Jews and Greeks, Jews and Gentiles, Black, white and all others.

The lifting up of Jesus was His way of saying that He would be crucified. **John 12:33** *This he said, signifying what death he should die.*

Christ is verified day after day and week after week when He is lifted up and men are drawn to Him. One of the greatest verifications of Messiah is a changed life.