

### The Father Commends His Son; the Lord Predicts His Death

#### John 12:27-34

John 12:27-34 – *“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”*<sup>28</sup> *Father, glorify Your name.”*

*Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”*

<sup>29</sup> *Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”*

<sup>30</sup> *Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.”*<sup>31</sup> *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”*<sup>32</sup> *And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”*<sup>33</sup>

*This He said, signifying by what death He would die.*

<sup>34</sup> *The people answered Him, “We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”*

#### Background Notes

*“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’?”* Some translations differ here, but I think verse 27 actually is a question. Why don't we know for sure? The reason is that in the original Greek manuscripts there was no punctuation. Documents and inscriptions were usually written in *uncial* style, which means that there were not even spaces between the words! So we have to determine by the context if a sentence was a question or not.

In verse 27 the Lord revealed His emotions when He said, *“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’?”* Why was our Lord's soul troubled? Was He afraid to die? No! Was He having second thoughts about doing the Father's will? Of course not! It was the knowledge that He would be going to the cross to become the Sin-bearer, and the awful prospect of being separated from His Father. **That** was why He was troubled!

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* The Lord Jesus experienced the wrath of God upon sin as He suffered and died on the cross on our behalf. Looking forward to that awful experience was deeply troubling to His soul.

His statement here is very similar to His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane: *“My Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not what I will but what thou wilt.”* But there was no other way. The Lord Jesus Christ knew that He **had** to go to the cross and die to accomplish the plan of salvation. So, in spite of the awful prospect of His suffering, He moved steadily forward to that hour - because of His love for us!

In verse 28 the voice of the Father was heard for the third time in our Lord's ministry. The Father's voice was heard at His baptism: "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*" (Matthew 3:17). It was heard at His transfiguration: "*While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!'*" (Matthew 17:5).

And then in John 12:28, when the Lord prayed, "*Father, glorify Your name,*" the Father's voice was heard once again. "*Then a voice came from heaven, saying, 'I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.'*" God's name was glorified throughout the life and ministry and through the death of the Lord Jesus. Could that be said of us? Has God's name been glorified through our lives? It's something to seriously think about.

Verses 32-33 reveal that the Lord knew exactly what kind of death He would die. He would be "lifted up" - that is, He would be lifted up on the cross to die by crucifixion. In His grace, God has hidden from us the time and type of death we will die, but the Lord Jesus knew both the time and the way He would die. He knew that when His hour had come, He would be nailed to a cross and suffer the horrible death of crucifixion.

The people realized that He was talking about His death, but they didn't understand. They said, "*We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?'*" (v34). In other words, they were asking, "You said You're the Messiah, and we have even heard You apply the messianic title "Son of Man" to Yourself. But the Scriptures indicate that the Messiah will live forever - so why are You talking about being lifted up and dying?" (By the way, when the people said "Law" (v35), they mean the Old Testament Scriptures in general, not just the first five books.) The people were forgetting, of course, that Scriptures like Isaiah 53 predicted the sufferings and **death** of the Messiah.

## Doctrinal / Teaching Points

### 1. The cross is the basis of God's judgment of this world.

In verse 31 the Lord Jesus said, "*Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*" The word "*world*" here does not mean the material world or universe that God has created, but the "world system" and the "world of people" that have rejected Christ. In crucifying Jesus Christ, the world condemned itself. The world is now under the judgment of God! The entire world is accountable, because the world has rejected Christ.

If you are an unbeliever, you are part of this world system that is under the judgment of God. And it's only a matter of time before the sentence of judgment is carried out. You may not feel like you are under the judgment of God, but you are. You are literally are living on borrowed time. The judgment of this world has taken place and in God's timing the sentence **will** be carried out. The cross is the basis of God's judgment of this world.

### 2. The cross is the basis of God's victory over Satan.

*“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out” (v31).* In verse 31 Jesus referred to Satan as the *“ruler of this world.”* John 16:11 also referred to Satan as the ruler of this world. And in 2 Corinthians 4:4 Satan is known as the *“god of this world.”*

But Satan was defeated at the cross! Genesis 3:15 predicted that Satan would *“bruise the Redeemer’s heel”* - but Satan’s *“head would be crushed.”* The Lord’s *“heel was bruised”* in that He had to suffer death on the cross. Satan’s head was crushed in that he was completely conquered through the death of our Lord Jesus on the cross.

Up until the cross, Satan had the power of death. Death was in Satan’s hands - but no longer! He is a **defeated** foe! In Hebrews 2:14-15 we read, *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*

The **cross** is the basis of God’s victory over Satan. It is only a matter of time before Satan will be confined to the lake of fire. Revelation 20:10: *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

In the meantime, if I were to ask you, *“Who’s in charge of hell?”* I hope no one would reply, *“Satan’s in charge of hell!”* No! That’s an idea that comes from cartoons that picture Satan with horns, a tail and a pitchfork, and he’s stoking the fires of hell. But that’s not what the **Bible** teaches!

Satan is **not** in charge of hell! The Bible teaches that **God is in charge of hell!** God is in charge of hell, and Satan will eventually be consigned there. In fact, hell was prepared as the eventual place of judgment for Satan and his followers.

Satan is already a defeated foe. The victory over Satan took place at the cross, and it’s only a matter of time before he will be eternally consigned to the lake of fire, to hell. The cross is the basis of God’s victory over Satan.

### **3. The cross is the basis of God’s salvation of sinners.**

*“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself” (v32).* Now notice - this verse **does not teach that everyone will be saved.** We know it can’t teach that, because the rest of Scripture clearly teaches that some people will be forever lost.

What does it mean, then, that the Lord will draw all people to Himself? It means that because of the work of Christ on the cross, the gospel will go out to all people and all nations - not just for the Jews. The gospel will go out to all nations, all nationalities, and all people. People will be saved from all nations and people, all kingdoms, all tribes on the face of this earth!

Revelation 5:9 shows us a vision of the future in Heaven: *“And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seal, for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”* Believers in Heaven will be from every tribe, and every tongue, and every people, and every nation! Isn't that great? What an encouragement to preach the gospel around the world, even in pagan nations and the hostile or difficult areas!

*“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”* The cross is the basis of God's salvation of sinners.

## Practical Application

Do we recognize God's voice when we hear it?

God's voice was heard from Heaven! What did some of the people say? They said they had heard thunder! They had a naturalistic explanation for the voice of God. Clearly they were not sensitive to God's voice.

And this is still true today. People want to explain everything in a naturalistic way. Even when something unusual happens, they try to explain it away as a natural phenomenon. It can't be from God, they say. Why not? Because they have already made up their minds that there are no supernatural happenings. They refuse to recognize that God may be speaking.

In Psalm 19:1-2, David said, *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.”* Does modern man see nature that way? Do people today recognize the voice of God in the natural world? No way! They prefer to believe that everything we see around us came about by chance, over time, from nothing! (How absurd! Talk about “kissing your brains goodbye”!)

Well, what about us? Do we recognize God's voice when we hear it? Back in my college days, I had three accidents in one summer. I was in the hospital three times in three months. Finally, I realized that God was trying to get my attention. He put me on my back so I would look up! That summer became a turning point in my Christian life. I'm thankful for those “accidents,” because while I was recovering from my injuries I began a serious study of God's Word.

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