

John 12.20-33

Unity Starts Here

This PASSAGE of Scripture should be OPENED with a DRUM ROLL
 All Up to THIS Moment in BIBLICAL HISTORY has been PREPARATION
 UNTIL NOW Faithful People of God Waiting since Promise in Garden of Eden
 “O God, WHEN will that Wretched HEAD of SERPENT will be CRUSHED?”

Every SIN-Conscious Jew waited ENTIRE LIFETIME for this MOMENT
 Person Fulfilled every POSSIBILITY for Forgiveness Allowed by Law of Moses
 SPLATTERED Clothes with Sacrificial Blood – Spent Fortune 4 Spotless Lamb
 Walked home from Jerusalem Nagging Sense Something STILL Not RIGHT
 Knew deep in Heart > Blood of Bulls and Goats can NEVER take Away SIN

Up to THIS POINT in Gospel of John it has been NOT YET

Jesus’ Mother that Wedding in Cana Needed Some Jesus VINTAGE Wine -
 Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not
 yet come.” John 2.4

they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour
 had not yet come. John 7.30

he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet
 come John 8.20

Our TEXT takes us to SUMMIT of REDEMPTIVE HISTORY

As if ENTIRE Bible to this Point was Long Climb up Steep Mountain

NOW Time Fully Come – STAND at SUMMIT and SEE GRAND VIEW
 God sent His Son, Born of Woman / Under Law, Redeem those Under the Law

Day BEFORE Mighty THRONG in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus: Hosana SAVE!!
 Apostle John Master of IRONY as he writes this GLORIOUS GOSPEL...

So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.” John 12.19

v. 20 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks.

FIRST-FRUITS of the WORLD > “some Greeks” NOW Come

Greeks may well have BEEN PRESENT when Jesus CLEANSED Temple
Felt His Welcome when he ROARED “All Nations welcome to PRAY Here!”

Just as LUKE described SIGNS God used on PENTECOST

To get ATTENTION of Jerusalem >> WIND, FIRE, LANGUAGES

HERE John SIRENS the word NOW– Something HUGE Happening

v. 20 Now... / v. 23 “The hour has come.../ v. 31 Now...now...

v. 27 for this purpose I have come to this hour

What is ALL the EXCITEMENT about...3 Points from our TEXT...

1. Agony of the Sovereign

Greek Visitors wanted PRIVATE AUDIENCE with Wonder-Working Rabbi
But He Responds to them with PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT...

v. 23 Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

DISCIPLES must have Turned with Curiosity > WHAT does THAT Mean?

Jesus Explains Himself... v. 24 a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies

And if there is ANY DOUBT – John makes it VERY CLEAR...

v. 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Put 2 words DON'T Seem to FIT in Same Phrase – Agony / Sovereign

SOVEREIGN =All Power, Authority, UNTOUCHABLE, Could Never Agonize!

John who writes this FINAL GOSPEL – 40 or 50 years after Historical Events

Looks back on ALL that Jesus Did and Sees GLORY

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1.14

7 “I AM” Declarations – Records 7 “Only God Could Do This!!” MIRACLES

Then John says “I have not even told you HALF the COOL STUFF Jesus did...”

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. John 21.25

This Sovereign GOD of GLORY comes in HUMAN FLESH, Jesus: Real MAN
THIS SOVEREIGN is TOUCHABLE – AND Indeed AGONIZED FOR US!

JESUS IS GLORIFIED BY BEING CRUCIFIED

UNDERSTANDABLE ANXIETY - HE KNOWS WHAT'S COMING >

v. 27 "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Gospel of John's EQUIVALENT of Garden GETHSEMANE: RIGHT HERE!

Contemplates THE CUP > Cup of SUFFERING > Cup of WRATH of God

MEANING of Jesus' Prayer: GET ME THRU IT - NOT GET ME OUT OF IT

Already Seen Him WEARY at Sychar Well, WEEPING at Tomb of Lazarus

REAL MAN > Understandably SHRINKS from DEATH > esp. THE CROSS

Jesus Deeply Troubled > Afraid?? Yes! But UNDETERRED, RESOLVED

HOW does He Struggle?? IN PRAYER > In PRESENCE of His Loving Father

v. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

vs. 29,30 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

Heavenly WORD OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE from Father to Son
 Heard at KEY Points - BAPTISM, TRANSFIGURATION, & Now Before Cross

Crowd HEARD Jesus PRAYER for GLORY > FATHER Thundered His Amen
 NATURAL MAN: Hears Thunder // SPIRITUAL MAN > Hears Heaven’s Voice
 Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him John 13.31

2. Accomplishment of the Savior

Jesus NEVER has AUDIENCE w/ Greeks: NOT YET TIME > Another TASK
 Apart from his voluntary sacrifice Jesus could do nothing for these Greeks...it was only by means of his substitutionary atonement that he...would save them.
 William Hendriksen

MUST DIE on Cross > to OPEN Gates of Heaven and LET THEM IN
 Salvation will NOT be Accomplished unless our ENEMY is ANNIHILATED

v. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out

Jesus – God’s GREAT and FINAL PROPHET– Sounds God’s WARNING
 World’s Temporary RULER – THIEF who KILLS, STEALS, DESTROYS
 Soon GOING DOWN -- HOUR has Come for STRONG MAN to be BOUND
 DEATH of JESUS LOOKS LIKE VICTORY for SATAN: POWER of DEATH
 REJOICING of DEMONS at TOMB Turned to SCREAMS at RESURRECTION

MILLENIAL REIGN Begins > Firstfruits Seen > GREEKS come to SEE JESUS

PENTECOST > Nations Stream to House of God in Jerusalem

Spirit-Filled Church: Extends Jesus Reign from Jerusalem to Beijing & Beyond

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. Revelation 12.10

3. Attraction of the Son

v. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

ATTRACTION of Jesus is Unparalleled in All of History

No ONE / THING ever Attracted Men, Women, Boys, Girls like JESUS

100's of Thousands stood to Welcome ROMAN Emperors returning from MILITARY TRIUMPHS, Emperors all DIED, Empire overrun Barbarians MILLIONS Praised HITLER and Followed him to RUIN

MILLIONS Watch World Cups, Superbowls, Playoff Finals, Olympics

Very FEW Remember who Won – Most Do Not Care

MORE Men, Women, Boys, Girls gather Each Sunday in churches around World

He Left Earth 2000 yrs ago – Number of His Followers GROWS Every Yr

1) Who draws? v. 32 “And *I*, when *I*...” The Jesus of HISTORY Speaking

Not a BUDDA Enshrouded in MYTH & LEGEND

TRUE MAN who Stepped into RECORDED HISTORY

Even his ENEMIES have Recorded Abundant PROOF of HIS...

Incomparable Life – Excruciating Death – Indisputable Resurrection

GREEKS Came to Flesh and Blood Man – Jesus of Nazareth

Back HOME in Greece had GROWN UP hearing Claims of Great Philosophers

Plato, Socrates, Aristotle – None of them could SAVE from Sin, Death, Hell

Preachers Grow OLD and DIE – Programs get as Outdated // Leisure Suits

Denominations DRIFT toward Apostasy / None as Cool as Newest Thing!

Most of what WE DO make Jesus More FAMOUS soon looks FOOLISH

He MUST Draw us to God because we do NOT WANT to Come!

Jesus: “the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil” John 3.19

Jesus: “you refuse to come to me that you may have life” John 5.40

His PROMISE is to Draw People to HIMSELF

Does NOT Draw TO a Church an Organization or a Program or Denomination

It is the Christ of Calvary who draws. It is the Christ whose blood was shed and whose body was broken. It is the Christ who gave Himself in the place of sinners so that He might bear in Himself the proper and justified wrath of God. James Boice

2) How are we drawn? v. 32 “And I, when *I am lifted up from the earth...*”

People Drawn As He is LIFTED UP! This is our DESIRE and our GOAL

Hope for that in My Sermon – Music Team – BICF Members

Want Him to be Lifted Up – Home, Family, Work, School, World

But Jesus NOT talking about ANY of those GOOD Things WE DO

Lifted UP on CROSS – NOT OUR WORK, IMPOSSIBLE Save OURSELVES

OUR Sermons, Songs, Prayers, Plans CANNOT DRAW Sinners

It is the CHRIST of CALVARY who DRAWS

The One gave his BODY and BLOOD on a GRUESOME Roman CROSS Draws

"LIFTED UP" – EXPANDABLE term in John's GOSPEL = Salvation

John mean Cross? YES!, Ressor? YES!, Ascension? YES!, Exaltation? YES!

...the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life John 3.14

Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he...”
John 8.28

GOD the I AM – LIFTED UP – SON OF MAN > AMAZING Claims!!

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you — his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind — so shall he sprinkle many nations
Isaiah 52.13-15

DRAWN to Christ NOT DRIVEN or DRAGGED > God must Work IN US

People won't be PUSHED, MANIPULATED, GIMMICKED, TRICKED

Jesus: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”
John 6.44

Sometimes when I am preparing a sermon, I ask myself, ‘Why must I take all this trouble? If men were in their senses, they would run to Christ without my message... Why must we plead? Why must we be so earnest? Because people do not want to come, not even to their own Saviour. They do not wish to have their sins forgiven. They do not wish to be renewed in heart; and they never will come – no, not one mother's son of them – unless He that sent Christ to them shall draw them to Christ. A work of grace is necessary before the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus will be accepted by any of us.
Charles Spurgeon

3) Who is Drawn?

v. 32 “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw *all people*...”

ALL Human Race WITHOUT DISTINCTION - JEW AND GENTILE

Jesus would die...for the scattered children of God
John 11.51-52

To this Point SALVATION been EXCLUSIVE HEBREW PROPERTY 2000 yrs

Few PROSELYTES Sneaked In, Mostly Exclusive Club for Jewish Blood

Day Coming that JERUSALEM will not be ONLY Airport w/ Flights to Heaven

John uses word **WORLD** over 100 X's in this Gospel / Matthew just 10 X's

...the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the *world* John 1.29

God so loved the *world* that He gave His one and only Son... John 3.16

...this man really is the *Savior of the world* John 4.42

...he who comes down from heaven and *gives life to the world* John 6.33

Christianity makes up about a third of the world population and approximately the same as the two next largest religions combined; Islam and Hinduism.

Christianity is also the only religion represented in all 238 surveyed countries.

The World Christian Encyclopedia

Here we are **MANY Nations / Races, Capital City, Most Populous Nation World**

Blood-Bought TICKETS to WORSHIP Living God in SPIRIT and TRUTH

What is your **Deepest Connection / Strongest Community** > **Body of Christ**

How many **NAMES** do you Know here? What are **Concerns? Needs?**

Practical Expression > Who do you **TALK TO** after Service Ends?

People Same **Culture, Country, Color, or Class?** How Boring > Do that at Home!

God did Not bring you here to Stay in **Comfort Zone**> Get you Ready for Heaven

Eternity with Every Tongue, Tribe, Nation, People > **HERE** they are **NOW!**

GOSPEL Going **OUT** Today **PLACES** we would **NEVER CHOOSE** to Go

And **Places** we will **Never BE ALLOWED** to Go

LANGUAGES we will **Never Learn** to **SPEAK**

And **BARRIERS** we could never **PENETRATE**

From **KA'ABA** to **KREMLIN** / **Dark PRISONS** to even **Darker POLITICS**

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

Psalm 139.7

4) Why are we drawn? - To be WITH HIM!

v. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *people to myself*.”

Q: What My True IDENTITY? Who Do I BELONG to? Where True Home?

ONLY PLACE the WORLD had for JESUS > CROSS > We FOLLOW HIM

v. 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.

Jesus never hides His scars when He calls disciples.

James Boice

What is an EVIDENCE that you HAVE Received this Great SALVATION?

Holy Spirit moves into your LIFE > RADICAL Paradigm Shift

LIFE Only Exists in Jesus – HE is THE LIFE, ETERNAL, and ABUNDANT

v. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

STRANGE WORDS > World Eager to SAVE LIVES at GREAT COSTS

LIFE: Preservers, Belts, Nets, Boats, Lines, Guards, Support, Suck Life Savers!

Note the contrasts: loneliness or fruitfulness; losing your life or keeping your life; serving self or serving Christ; pleasing self or receiving God’s honor.

Warren Wiersbe

What about YOU? Jesus wants to Draw You to Himself

SAME Jesus who drew people in 1st C still draws in 21st C in this 21st C

You Dare Not SAVE Your LIFE! NO! Must Lose It, Hate It, Give it AWAY!

"when Jesus calls a man he calls him to come and die" Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Why do Jesus words go contrary to common sense? It is because he is the life.

Those who love their lives and refuse to die with him will not see life proper...

those who hate their lives and choose to die with Christ gain eternal life. Even

when they sleep in death, they await a resurrection, for their eternal life cannot be interrupted by death.

Samuel Ngewa

DRAW w/ JOY not Judgment / Unconditional LOVE Not Unattainable Legalism

GOOD News – Christ Jesus came into the World to SAVE SINNERS

Human Heart Not Changed – Made by God, Messed up by Sin, Made New in X

GRACE & MERCY UNCHANGED, Everlasting to Everlasting He is GOD

Jesus: “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”
John 6.37

Biblical Unity = Unity in Faith: Trust in God, His Son and His Scriptures

UNITY – All those DRAWN by Jesus to Himself – WORK of God

So...UNITY STARTS HERE --- At the CROSS OF CHRIST

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.
Amen.
Romans 11.36

John 12:20-33 ESV

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. 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.” 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.”

How sweet and awful (awesome) is the place, With Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays, the choicest of her stores!

While all our hearts and all our songs, Join to admire the feast,
Each of us cry, with thankful tongues, “Lord, why was I a guest?

“Why was I made to hear Thy voice, And enter while there’s room,
When thousands make a wretched choice, And rather starve than come?”

’Twas the same love that spread the feast That sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste, And perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God! Constrain the earth to come;
Send Thy victorious Word abroad, And bring the strangers home. Isaac Watts, 1707