

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

BIBLE TEXT: John 12:20-36

LESSON 220 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 12:20-36

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, Sir, we would see Jesus.

²² Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

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

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.

²⁵ He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

²⁶ If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

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.

²⁸ Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

²⁹ The people therefore, that stood by, and heard *it*, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

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

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Greeks' Desire

1 Certain Greeks came to the feast, and desired to see Jesus, John 12:20, 21;

John 6:40

⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Mark 7:25-30

²⁵ For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

²⁷ But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs.

²⁸ And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

²⁹ And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

³⁰ And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

Acts 16:1

¹ Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a *certain* woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father *was* a Greek:

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

2 They came to Philip with their request; Philip told Andrew, and together they told Jesus, John 12:21, 22

II Christ's sufferings and Resulting Glory

1 The hour that the Son of Man should be glorified was at hand, John 12:23;

John 17:1-5

¹ These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

² As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

⁴ I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Isaiah 49:6-7

⁶ And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

⁷ Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, *and* his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the

³² And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

³³ This he said, signifying what death he should die.

³⁴ The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

³⁵ Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

³⁶ While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

LORD that is faithful, *and* the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

2 Jesus indicated that He must suffer death and burial before that eternal triumph, John 12:24, 25, 27;

Isaiah 53:10-12

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

1 Corinthians 15:36-38

³⁶ *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

³⁷ And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*:

³⁸ But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

3 Those who serve Jesus must follow Jesus, John 12:26;

John 10:26

²⁶ But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

John 13:16

¹⁶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

John 14:15

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

4 The Father's voice was heard in answer to Jesus' prayer, John 12:28-30;

Matthew 3:17

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 17:5

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.

2 Peter 1:17

¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

III The Great Magnet

- 1 Jesus foretold the ultimate and absolute defeat of Satan,
John 12:31;

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman,
and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy
head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the
morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which
didst weaken the nations!

¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into
heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I
will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the
sides of the north:

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be
like the most High.

¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of
the pit.

Revelation 12:9-11

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent,
called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole
world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels
were cast out with him.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is
come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our
God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our
brethren is cast down, which accused them before our
God day and night.

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and
by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their
lives unto the death.

Revelation 20:2-3

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent,
which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a
thousand years,

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up,
and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the
nations no more, till the thousand years should be
fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

- 2 The lifting up of Jesus would result in drawing the human
family unto Himself, John 12:32;

John 3:14-15

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

Romans 5:17-19

¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one;
much more they which receive abundance of grace and
of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one,
Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came*
upon all men to condemnation; even so by the
righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men
unto justification of life.

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made
sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made
righteous.

1 Timothy 2:3-6

³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our
Saviour;

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto
the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God
and men, the man Christ Jesus;

⁶ Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in
due time.

2 Timothy 1:9

⁹ Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

3 The people heard Jesus' saying, but did not discern His meaning, John 12:33, 34;

John 8:53

⁵³ Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

Matthew 16:13-14

¹³ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

¹⁴ And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

4 Jesus plainly showed the value of walking in the light, John 12:35, 36;

John 1:9

⁹ *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 8:12

¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 11:10

¹⁰ But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

Proverbs 4:19

¹⁹ The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

1 John 2:8-11

⁸ Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

⁹ He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

¹⁰ He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

¹¹ But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

NOTES:

The Hour of Glorification

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem had caused great excitement among the people, much to the dismay of the chief priests and Pharisees. The Feast of the Passover was naturally a time of national expectancy among the Jewish people. Many of them felt that Jesus was the Messiah, the Prophesied One; and only a spark was needed to set aflame the tinder of their demands that Jesus set up His Kingdom and overthrow the oppressive yoke of the Roman government. The Pharisees were fearful that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the people's acclamation of Him had provided that spark. They became more resolute than ever in their plan to put the Son of God to death.

On nearly every occasion previous to this time, Jesus had discouraged the thronging multitudes that requested Him to be their king. Now Jesus knew that His hour was at hand, and it seems that the Son of God was so willing to pay the price of redemption for man that He almost hastened the hour to its fulfillment.

Jesus knew full well that His riding the lowly ass into the

city of Zion would be recognized as the application unto Himself of that Scripture, "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass" (Zechariah 9:9). Jesus also knew the effect this act would have upon the Pharisees and chief rulers of the Jews, but He was no longer careful for His blessed life. Jesus knew that the Scriptures must be fulfilled in every detail, and He went calmly and meekly about His Father's business. How thankful the Christian should be that Jesus was willing to pay the supreme price for his redemption!

The Greeks' Homage

While the Pharisees were scheming to put Jesus to death, another incident took place that might seem trivial on the surface, but nothing is trivial with the Son of God. A few Greeks who were with those who came to worship at the Feast of the Passover, heard about the fame of Jesus. They came to Philip with the request, "Sir, we would see Jesus." Philip did not know what to do about the request, so he took the matter to Andrew, another of Jesus' disciples. The two of them then brought the request to Jesus. It is needful for Christ's disciples to work together in the bringing of souls to the Master.

Philip and Andrew did not know what attitude Jesus would have toward the request of these Greeks. No doubt they remembered the time when the Syrophenician woman, also a Greek, came to Jesus for help. He had answered at that time, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24); but they also remembered that the woman importuned in her prayer, and Jesus had given her the desire of her heart. Philip and Andrew might have discussed between them the best course to take, and then brought the request to the Son of God. It does help, many times, to talk over a problem with a minister, but that should not keep anyone from bringing his problem to Jesus as well. In unity there is strength. The only reason that anyone should tell his problem to another is to enlist the aid of his brother in bringing the matter to Jesus, for in Him is the answer to all problems.

An audience must have been granted to these Greeks, for the answer that Jesus gave seems to be directed to them. The Son of God could see in these men the harbingers of the Gospel dispensation and its myriads of Gentiles who would answer the call of Christ and redemption. These Greeks may have come in much the same spirit as most of the Jews, desiring to see the man who would soon set up an earthly throne; but Jesus revealed to them in a few words the true secret of His mission to this earth.

The Corn of Wheat

"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit". (John 12:24). Jesus used an illustration from nature to bring to light the hidden truths of God. When a kernel of grain is put into the soil, with proper conditions, the blade will soon spring up, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear" (Mark 4:28). Jesus used a grain of wheat to illustrate the mystery of His mission, because wheat contains the germ of life within itself. Just so Jesus had everlasting life within Himself

Jesus is the only person who dwelt on earth of whom it could be written, "In him was life" (John 1:4). God truly breathed the breath of life into the first man, Adam. He became a living soul, and had the imparted life within him; but Jesus had inherent life. Had Adam remained in the sinless condition in

which he was created, he would have lived on and on; but sin brought death. God's edict was, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Adam disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. He died spiritually that day, and later he died physically as well. The element of eternal life that God had imparted to man was lost in Adam's sin, and sinful man came under the sentence of eternal death.

The Great Mystery

Not all men have sinned "after the similitude of Adam's transgression" (Romans 5:14); nevertheless, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The sin principle has been born into man from Adam's downfall to the present day. As soon as man reaches the age of accountability when he knows the difference between good and evil, sin is his inevitable choice. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). It is impossible for man to save himself from sin and, therefore, from eternal destruction; it takes the Blood of the Lamb and the power of God to bring about this marvelous transformation.

Herein is the great mystery of Jesus' mission to earth made clear. The Son of God gave His life's Blood to make atonement for the sinful human family. Jesus' body was placed in the grave, but that inherent life could not be destroyed. Soon it came forth in resurrection out of the grave to bring forth much fruit. Great provision was made that man could share in this triumph of the ages. When a man will repent of his sins and believe on the Son of God with all his heart and soul, that man will be saved from eternal destruction and be made partaker of everlasting life through the merits of his Savior.

This is the only way that man can again gain a measure of that eternal life that was lost in the Garden of Eden — by coming in contact with the Life-Giver through the Blood of the Lamb. "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:20-22). To rise triumphantly to eternal life on that resurrection morning, man must have had that everlasting life imparted to him before he passes out of this world.

Serving Jesus

Jesus brought out another thought very clearly here: that, in order to love and serve Christ, a Christian must follow Christ. Nothing could be more logical; but people can be found everywhere who claim to be servants of Christ while their works and actions deny their testimony. Jesus' path upon earth led to the cross. If any man expects to arrive at Jesus' destination, he will necessarily have to follow the same way that his Master traveled; for Jesus said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour" (John 12:26). Too many people want to go to Heaven without taking up Christ's cross.

What does it mean to _follow Christ? Does it mean that men must be nailed literally to the cross as was their Savior? Many of the early martyrs found this to be true, but the disciples of Christ in this country have not yet been called upon to die for their faith. However, Jesus taught that His love for men and the utter self-sacrifice of His person was the secret of His influence over men. "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his

master, and the servant as his lord" (Matthew 10:24, 25).

Any man who expects to do anything or be anything for his Master must have that willingness in his heart to die, either literally or by the less difficult route of self-denial and suppression of worldly ambitions and plans. No man can be a fruit-bearing Christian unless he sacrifices himself. "But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

All Gain

The unenlightened man might say that the way of the Cross is all loss and no gain, but actually nothing could be more untrue. All other ways, except the way of the Cross, are loss. Jesus said, "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal" (John 12:25). Jesus leads the way to a life that will continue throughout the countless, ceaseless ages of eternity. No other code or system of living can give that assurance. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8).

Jesus leads each Christian by love — and how glorious is the way! The Son of God found the way of the Cross was bearable, because that was His Father's will and that was the way that led to His glorification. With the same certainty in the hearts of Jesus' servants, the true Christian enjoys every step of the road that his Master followed. The song writer has aptly expressed the Christian's attitude:

"And the toils of the road will seem nothing When I get to the end of the way."

Jesus could see that in His death lay the complete victory over Satan. The Son of God upon the cross would be the great Magnet who would draw men. Men are drawn by love. They may be driven by other means, but only love will draw men. The Christ on the cross is the noblest, the greatest manifestation of love that the world has ever witnessed, because He went there of His own free will to pay for the world's redemption!

QUESTIONS

- 1 Who came seeking for Jesus during the Feast of the Passover?
- 2 Whom did these people tell that they wanted to see Jesus?
- 3 What answer did Jesus give these men?
- 4 How is it possible to obtain eternal life?
- 5 If a man truly serves Jesus, what must that man be willing to do?
- 6 What happened at this time when Jesus prayed to His Father?
- 7 Who is the great Magnet of the world? Why?
- 8 Name the great benefits of walking in the light.
- 9 What will happen to the people who walk in darkness?