Lifted Up
John 12:27-32

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The Lord Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up, will ________ all men unto me” (John 12:32). We would all do well today to take a long look at the ________. We know that the Scripture is what ________ us to God in heaven and His Son Jesus Christ. The Scripture teaches us what we know about the Lord Jesus. So, we ________ it again and again!

The story of the cross of Christ occupies a ________ portion of the New Testament. So important is the cross, the apostle Paul said, “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him ____________ ” (1 Corinthians 2:2). A sweet lady once said that she had difficulty thinking about the death of Jesus on the cross. She wondered why we talk about something so ________ as crucifixion. Of course, the cross is an instrument of_________; but it also has a message for each of us that is so ________ that none of us can afford to miss it.

To contemplate the death of Christ will have a definite effect on the ________. No one can think long and hard about the ___________ of Jesus and not be moved by it. There may be many things about the death of Christ we may not understand in this life; still the Bible does ________ some things to us of great value. The New Testament mentions the death of Christ _____ times. So, it’s helpful to ________ what we can about the death of Jesus and its connection with our salvation and our eternity. It’s touching to know that Jesus was ________ to give his head to a crown of thorns, his back to a cruel scourging, his hands and feet to nails, and his side to a spear. Asking why Jesus would do this is very, very important.

Our reading today is from The Gospel According to John 12:27-32. Jesus here was predicting His ________ upon the cross. Read James Coats’ hymn, “Where Could I Go?” At times going to the Lord is the only real option we have. Whether we know it or not, we all need God. We need His love, His peace, His joy, His hope, and His salvation.

Jesus is real and genuine. He has ________ Himself time and again to be everything that He claims. You can ______ His teaching and His promises. You can depend upon Him to ______ you through the toughest of times. Some think of Jesus as merely one among many religious ____________, but Jesus is quite unique. Who else was born of a virgin? Who else fulfilled so many Old Testament prophecies? Who else arose from the dead? Who else could raise the dead, heal the sick, or walk upon water? If these are just myths, how do you account for so many disciples holding to them with their last breath?

How do you account for the ___________ that Jesus fulfilled? He was _____ in Bethlehem, fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 5:2. He was the seed of woman. He had his hands and his feet ________ as Psalm 22:16 says. He was betrayed for thirty pieces of ________ as
Zechariah 11:12 says. He was to die with the wicked, and be buried with the ______ as Isaiah 53 prophesies. Oh, there are dozens of prophecies in the Old Testament about the ______ of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled ______ one of those prophecies. No other person in all of ______ has done that or could do that. To fulfill so many specific prophecies shows that He is from ______. Centuries before he was born and centuries after, men still looked to Jesus as the ______ person of all history. This is still ‘AD 2016, “the year of our Lord, 2016.”

Unfortunately, many have ____________ the Lord Jesus. I was shocked when I learned that the fastest ________ religious group in America describe themselves as unaffiliated. Nearly one in four Americans says that they have _____ religion. Many of these came from Christian ________, and for whatever reason they abandoned their faith in Jesus. They are the “unchurched” and place no allegiance in anything ___________. Perhaps you’re a person choosing to be “without God and without hope in this present world.” When you abandon God, realize this! You also abandon God’s help and hope, His peace and joy, and His love and grace.

Where will you go, my friend, to find what ______ the Lord Jesus can give? No one else has what He has. No one can give you what He can give you. No one will ever love you the way the Lord loves you. You might have a thousand friends in your lifetime, but which of your friends has ever ______ for you? Which one ever felt the repeated ______ of a cruel whip on his back? Which one ever took ______ through his hands and feet? Which one ever ______ suspended between heaven and earth until he could breathe no more for you? Which of your friends ever took your _____ upon himself and died for them? You can search the world over and never find anyone who will love you like Jesus did!

The apostle Paul said, “For while we were still __________, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the ______ man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet ________, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8). The Lord Jesus died for us, not because we had befriended Him, but because He had come to ______ us. We were helpless, ungodly, and sinners; but Jesus died for us anyway. You can’t ________ that kind of love; it’s much deeper than a casual friendship. It’s the kind of love that we all long for, the kind of love that we cannot ignore or forget.

It’s hard for me to understand what ________ in the heart of a person who forgets what Jesus did for him. The Hebrew writer warns, “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that ______ ______ from the living God. But ________ one another day after day, as long as it’s still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13). Yes, sin can deceive our ______ and harden them. People can become enslaved to some favorite sin to the point that they’ll ________ the church and the Lord.

You may not be caught up in sin, but your sin can __________ you from God and His people. If you say _____ to Jesus, who then will love you like He did? Who will you find to
for your sins? No one will, and no one can. You must _______ the consequences of your sin on your own. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-6. Jesus is the _______ one who could ransom you from sin.

If you reject Jesus, there is no other Savior who can _______ you from the consequences of sin. Peter said there is none other name under heaven, whereby we must be _______ (Acts 4:12). There is only one Savior, and that’s Jesus Christ. If you choose sin over Him, you need to know what Paul said, “For the _______ of sin is death, but the free _______ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). The wages of sin have not changed in all these years—it’s still death. I would hate to see you _______ your heart against God. If you do, realize that God will say no to you for the life hereafter. My friend, once this life is over, you can’t turn back the _______. You can’t wish your choices away. You will face the Lord!

Whether you face the Lord on that day, the Day of Judgment, with joy and peace or with dread and panic is up to you. You’re actually choosing life or death by your choice of whether to _______ the Lord or not. If you reject the Lord, you will not find any _______ for the hereafter. You might find great success today; you might become rich and famous; you might have great power and influence, and have the pleasures of life at every turn; but if you don’t have the Lord Jesus in your life, you’re putting your _______ at risk of being lost eternally. Paul said, “she who gives herself to wanton _______ is dead even while she lives” (1 Timothy 5:6). I suspect today there are many, many people physically _______ but spiritually _______ in their trespasses and sins.

What should you do if you find that you are living without the _______ of the cross? Take a long, long look at the cross; _______ the love of Christ with the way that you’re living your life. The cross has a way of humbling us and convicting us of sin. We’ve all grievously fallen short of the glory of God. We all deserve to be lost, but the Lord out of love paid the price to rescue us.

Perhaps you feel like David. King David _____ Bathsheba taking a bath, and apparently she was unclothed. Being tempted, he _____ for Bathsheba and the Bible said that he slept with her. When Bathsheba found that she was pregnant with David’s child, David then _______ to bring Uriah the Hittite back to cover up his sin. He tried this and that, but all of them failed. He eventually had Uriah _______ in battle and then he married his widow to try and cover things up. David’s sin, however, caught up with him. “Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and he said, ‘There were two men in one city, the one _______ and the other _______. The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing except _______ little ewe lamb, which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would _____ of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And it was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him’” (2 Samuel 12:1-6).
“Then David’s ________ burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, ‘As the LORD lives, surely this man who has done this deserves to ______. He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and he had no compassion.’” If I were David and heard such a story, I too would be angry at this selfish and unjust behavior! David had felt the _______ of his sin but thought he had covered it up so no one else would know. What Nathan said next must have stunned David. Nathan then said to David (verses 7 to 9), “You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you _____ over Israel and it is I who _________ you from the hand of Saul. I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care, I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! Why have you despised the _______ of the LORD by doing evil in His sight?’”

The most important day of our lives comes when we __________ that we too have sinned and we need a Savior. We may not have been an adulterer or a killer like David, but our sins are still ______. They can deceive us; they can harden our hearts; they can _____ us our souls. We need a Savior! We need Someone who will step in to ______ us, who will pay the price for our sins. That’s what the _______ is all about. That is why He died upon the cross! First Peter 2:24 says, “He Himself ______ our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _____ to sin and _______ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” If you need spiritual healing, look to the cross where Jesus is lifted up and come to Him, penitent and obedient!

We live in a confusing world with many competing voices, each crying out with a different __________. How can we know what is true? Today, some are like Pontius Pilate, who asked Jesus, “What is truth?” Jesus told Pilate, “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to _______ to the truth. And everyone who is of the truth _______ My voice” (John 18:37). The way to the ________ is Jesus Christ. You can _______ Him! You will not be deceived or fooled.

Jesus’ actions shout that He is real and genuine. His empty tomb _______ out that He did indeed rise from the dead. If Jesus arose from the dead, then He truly is _______ and the Son of God. We can trust His words. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; and no one _______ to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). He promised in John 8:31-32, “If you _________ in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you _______.” In our confused world, it’s reassuring to know the One who is the Truth! By His Word, we can _______ right and wrong. By His Word, we can know what’s true and what’s false!

If you believe in Jesus Christ and you love Him for dying on the cross, repent of every sin, confess Him as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Baptism into Christ is an immersion in water. When you’re baptized, God will wash away your sins (Acts 22:16); He’ll add you to His church (Acts 2:47); He’ll make you His child (Galatians 3:27); and He’ll raise you up to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). So, obey the Lord today!