

December 4, 2016

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 “un-churched” 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!