“If I Am Lifted Up…”

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Text: Jn. 3:14-16; 12:32

# Intro

1. As the Bronze serpent became the focus of all those plagued, so will Christ – Jn. 3:14-16
2. Jn. 12:32: Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”
3. Believer and unbeliever alike talk about the Messiah that walked the earth nearly 2k years ago.
4. What draws men to Christ?

## The Person of Jesus

1. Jesus was One who attracted great crowds when He preached and where ever He went.
2. His character was sinless *(II Cor. 5:21: “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf”)*
   1. Heb. 4:15: “…One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”
   2. Jesus was tempted as all men are and yet sinless. (Not evil to be tempted)
3. He is an example for all of mankind to follow *(I Pet. 2:21-25: “An example to follow”)*
   1. Jn. 13:34-35: He gave us an example of love that we are to follow. It is the example we are to follow to be identified as His disciples.
4. His character is that of love, the love from God *(I Jn. 4:8: God is love).*
   1. Jn. 15:9-11: "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.”
   2. He was ready to receive the vilest penitent sinner – Mk. 2:15-16: Tax collectors & sinners
   3. He had compassion on men – Mt. 9:35-38: His compassion motivated Him to heal them.
5. He revealed God to mankind in a way that He was not previously known – Jn. 14:7-9
   1. He spoke about God as One who had a personal relationship with Him – Jn. 5:17-19
   2. He was one with God – Jn. 10:30: “I and the Father are one.”
   3. Jesus is God; He is deity as He was deity in the flesh 2,000 years ago – Jn. 1:1-5
6. There was never a man who lived the perfect life that Jesus lived!

## The Miracles of Jesus

1. The miracles were recorded so that men would believe and have eternal life! (Jn. 20:30-31)
2. Men were attracted to the miracles of Christ.
   1. They came to receive the physical benefit – Mt. 4:24-25: Large crowds to be healed.
   2. They marveled at the great works that they had never seen before – Mt. 8:23-27; 9:8
3. His miracles astonished men:
   1. *Jn. 6:19:* Walked on water
   2. *Mk. 4:39:* Calmed the tempest
   3. *Mt. 14:21:* Fed five thousand
   4. *Jn. 9:* Healed man born blind
   5. **Raising the Dead:**
      1. *Mk. 5:22-43:* Jairus’ daughter
      2. *Lk. 7:11-17:* Widow’s (of Nain) son
      3. *Jn. 11:* Lazarus
4. Christ’s miracles proved He was from God and drew people to Him!

# The Teachings of Jesus

1. Jesus’ teaching was notably different from that of the rabbis that men marveled at His teaching.
   1. Mt 7:28-29: “…He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.”
   2. Jn. 7:44-46: “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”
2. His teaching drew multitudes:
   1. Mt. 13:1-2: They came just to hear Him teach.
   2. Mk. 2:1-12: The paralytic man was lowered in through the roof because of the crowds.
3. His parables were easy to remember.
   1. *Mt. 13:10-17:* Jesus taught the people in parables because they didn’t have the understanding His apostles did.
4. His words commanded men’s attention then, now, and one day will judge all men! *(Jn. 12:48)*

# The Sacrifice of Jesus

1. His death was not for crimes that He had committed (II Cor. 5:21).
   1. He who was sinless laid down His life for others – *Rom. 5:6-8:* “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (This sums up His love for mankind)
   2. *Jn. 15:13:* "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”
2. His agony in Gethsemane – Mt. 26:36-44: Knew what was coming!
3. He was mocked by the soldiers – Mt. 27:27-31: Purple robe and crown of thorns!
4. He was declared innocent, but still sentenced to death – Lk. 23:20-22: Pilate knew His innocence
5. He was scourged – Mk. 15:14-15: Pilate compromised and sentenced Him to death!
6. He was crucified for the sins of the world – Mk. 15:25-37: He *suffered for six hours before dying!*
   1. Crucified the 3rd hour (9AM); Darkness over the land at 6th hour (12Noon); Jesus died at 9th hour (3PM). *(Heb. 9:24-28; 10:10-12: One sacrifice for sins for all time!)*
7. The Perfect Sacrifice; the sinless Lamb; and out of love He died for you and for me!

### The Resurrection of Jesus

1. Jesus was unique among men in that He arose from the dead never to die again. He wasn’t raised from the dead from an outside source—He raised Himself from the dead.
   1. Jn. 2:19-21: Will destroy temple then raise it back up Himself in 3 days. He was speaking of His body.
   2. Jn. 5:25-26: Jesus had the power of life within Himself (Jn. 10:14-18).
2. His resurrected body was raised to life again and witnessed by men – I Cor. 15:1-11
   1. Over 500 eyewitnesses. (By our Judicial System’s standards, would be upheld as truth)
3. He alone has the solution to our fear of death.
   1. Heb. 2:14-15: Jesus broke the power of death. Physically die, but spiritually live forever.
4. Christ’s resurrection stands as proof of God’s power and love to all people for all time!

## His Words of Eternal Life

1. Men came to Jesus to learn how to receive eternal life (Jn. 6:68)
   1. *Mt 19:16:* The Rich young ruler asked Jesus what he might do to obtain eternal life.
   2. *Lk 10:25:* “A lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
2. Men are still drawn to Jesus to learn His words of eternal life:
   1. *Jn. 8:24:* Faith in Christ
   2. *Lk. 13:3:* Repentance
   3. *Mt. 10:32:* Confession of faith
   4. *Jn. 3:3; Mk.16:16:* Water baptism
   5. *Mt. 24:13:* Faithful living
3. “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life!” (No other source!)

## Conclusion

1. For two thousand years or so Jesus Christ has drawn mankind to Him. His name evokes emotions to both non-believers as well as believers, though for different reasons.
2. He said: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (*Jn 12:32*).
3. Those who are drawn to Him and believe in Him will be saved! *(Heb. 12:1-3: Author of faith)*
   1. The Bronze Serpent was lifted up for the sins of the people *(Num. 21:9),* and theyhad to look to it to be saved, so must we in obedience look to the One raised up for us!
   2. As all eyes are on Him for being lifted up (Acts 2:33; 5:31; Phil. 2:9: “Exalted”), when He returns in judgment, “every eye” will see Him! (Rev. 1:7)
   3. As He was lifted up for salvation, He will lift up the humble! (I Pet. 5:6: “Exalt”)
4. Those drawn to Him and wish for eternal life must obey the gospel to be saved! *(Mk. 16:16)*
5. Has He drawn you to Him? *(Heb. 12:2: Fix your eyes on Jesus!)*
6. We will be held accountable to how we are drawn to the Son of God, either out of love obey Him, or out of ridicule reject Him! *(Jn. 12:48)*
7. If not a Christian, you are subject to His judgment. Become a Christian! Repent & be baptized!
8. If a Christian with unrepented sin, you too are subject to the Judgment Seat of Christ. Repent!
9. Whatever your requests may be, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!