

Why Must the Son of Man be Lifted Up?

John 12:27-36

April 13, 2025

Choose: Happy or holy? Comfort or conformity?

The new King has entered Jerusalem.

Jesus is lifted up/ exalted in the cross!

Why must the Son of Man be lifted up to die?

Lifted Up: the Enormity of the Task v. 27-30

This is a little taste of Gethsemane.

“My soul is troubled.”

“I yield My life for Your glory!”

What is the most difficult duty in the Christian life?

Thy will be done! Can you say no to yourself?

The voice from heaven was for their sake. What does that mean?

Lifted Up to Judge the World, v. 31

The judgement: this world belongs to Jesus and not to the evil one.

Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats.

The purpose of light is not to cast shadows. John 3:17-18; 1 John 5:9-10

Lifted Up to Cast Out Satan, v. 31

Satan is the ruler of this world. (1 John 5:19; John 14:30; 16:11)

Satan is cast out, defeated at the cross by the “deeper magic.”

Lifted Up to Draw All People, v. 32-33

All people? All without distinction.

Biblical Objection v. 34

“The Law says that Christ remains forever.” (Daniel 7, Psalm 21:4; 110)

Why was Lazarus a big deal?

The Final Appeal of Jesus, v. 35-36

Jesus is concerned for their souls; not merely answering their objections.

Gospel light surrounds you; come to the light. Rest in the truth.

Don’t reject a friend!

Meditation

Behold, the King Cometh!

Holy week. “Behold the King comes!” But He rides into Jerusalem not in a chariot or on a charger but on the foal of a donkey. He is lowly and gentle. He is rightly hailed as King, but first He must win the throne. He will win it not by obvious victory but by what seems like defeat. He will enter and plunder the house of Hades from the inside. Giving Himself willingly into the jaws of Death, He will subdue the Grim Reaper and make man’s mortal enemy the King’s vanquished slave...

The Jews were not wrong to expect the Messiah to be a King, but they were wrong in how they expected His Kingdom to begin and what they expected it to look like. Evangelicals are not wrong to expect that Jesus’ kingdom is otherworldly, but they are wrong in what they often interpret what otherworldliness to mean. There is a political dimension to the Kingdom of God, but it is not politics as usual. Christ’s Kingdom began with a crown of thorns, not of gold; on a cross, not a throne; and with a procession from the open tomb, not in a splendid palace erected by men. But do not miss the fact that this *is* a Kingdom, the Kingdom that will outlast and supersede all the kingdoms of men in this present world. It is ruled by a King who is righteous, powerful, and merciful, a King full of wisdom, truth, and grace. We have never seen another king like Jesus, but one day every true king will bow the knee to their High King, Christ the Lord.

This Lord’s Day is historically celebrated by the Church as Palm Sunday. The crowds that met Jesus as He came into Jerusalem carried palm leaves and laid them, as well as their outer cloaks, on the road, a path made not of red carpet but redemptive-historical symbols and the kind of honor only honest, humble, common men can give. Like the crowd that day, we will shout, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!” Save us, Lord, for the King has come, the long-awaited Messiah has arrived, and He brings a Kingdom of Grace and the glory of salvation in His train for the blessing and joy of His people.

Joel Ellis