

# The Hour of Jesus' Exaltation

*Promise: far from a defeat the Cross of Christ is life-giving*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Deut. 32:36-39; Psalm 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; [John 12:20-43](#)  
(Palm/Passion Sunday, 4/10/22)

*Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*" – v. 17-18

**Lead In** – The week started out so hopeful. The one so many hoped was the long-awaited King, God's Anointed, indeed the Messiah, enters Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. He does not arrive on a war horse, as did the Romans. But in keeping with the kings of Israel, he comes riding on a beast of burden, a donkey. And yet the long-awaited hope was that the Messiah would be lifted high upon a throne, and under his rule all of Israel's enemies, most especially the Romans, would be vanquished. Jesus was about to be lifted up, but not in the way expected...

## I. Jesus' Strange Words About His Exaltation

- A. Not to be deterred from the hour of his exaltation...
- B. Glorification, His finest hour... Praised, honored...
- C. So what's this grain of wheat business? ...

## II. John's Distinctive Take on Jesus' Passion

- A. The agony in the garden starts early...
- B. The Judgement now! Not just at end of the age...
- C. Jesus will be singled out and lifted up, not a throne...

## III. The Cross Will Draw All People to Him

- A. Need for openness... None so blind... A hardening...
- B. Even among the open, love of the glory from man...

**Parting Shot** – The temptation will be to view this week, Holy Week or Week of the Passion, in a gruesome manner and to dread the commemoration of the suffering of our Lord on the wood of the Cross. Make no mistake about it, the suffering is real, the price is great, and we might sense the agony and feel faint of heart. But it is not a defeat! Satan does not win. Instead, sins are atoned for, death is overcome, and Satan is cast out from heaven. That is why we call it Good Friday. It is the Day of our Salvation. Easter will demonstrate it... Behold, the life-giving Cross on which was hung our salvation!

**Jn 7:30** So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.

**Jn 8:20** These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

**Jn 16:8-11** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**Ac 3:14-15** But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.

# John 12:20-43 ESV

*The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up*

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup> "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup> So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" <sup>35</sup> So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup> Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, <sup>38</sup> so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" <sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, <sup>40</sup> "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them." <sup>41</sup> Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. <sup>42</sup> Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

**Jn 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

**1Co 1:23-24** We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**Jn 5:44** How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

**Mt 10:28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

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