

(27) “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. Father, glorify Your Name.”

(28b) Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

(29) The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.”

(30) Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 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.” (He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.)

(34) 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?*”

(35) 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. 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.

Think on these things:

- 1) Jesus has just entered Jerusalem on the day we refer to as Palm Sunday --- because the people crowded the streets to greet Him with shouts of “Hosanna” and placed palm branches all along His route on the donkey. When He came to a place and paused, Greek inquirers asked to speak to Him through Philip (John 12:20), and then Jesus began speaking aloud to the people around Him. This is when He says, “Now is My soul troubled” (v.27). What do you think is bothering Him about “this hour”?

In His humanity, Jesus wants to ask God the Father to “save Him from the hour.” In His deity as Son, His resolve is to fulfill the very purpose of His coming --- to redeem mankind by an atoning death on the cross. (This dynamic occurs again in the Garden of Gethsemane.)

- 2) What happens next that is similar to when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17)? What did the crowd think had happened, and what did Jesus tell them?

Similar to Matthew (v.28)? **God the Father speaks aloud to Jesus with everyone around Him hearing ‘something’....**

Crowd thought (v.29)? **The two main responses were that it was thundering at that moment, or that Jesus had been spoken to by an angel.**

Jesus said (v.30 [only])? **Jesus said what they heard was ‘just for them’ (implying that He did not need a verbal confirmation from the Father to know that the Father had heard His request).**

- 3) The purpose of the “hour” (v.27) was to magnify the Father’s Name. How does Jesus’ death by crucifixion glorify the Father? (Consider John 17:24-26, Romans 5:8, and 1 John 4:10.)

Jesus’ death by crucifixion reveals the Father’s great plan of salvation for the world. In love, the Father determined to redeem us --- through Jesus as the “propitiation” (a satisfactory sacrifice to appease God’s wrath for sin) --- while “we were yet sinners.”

- 4) Today we understand that because Jesus died on the cross, there is forgiveness for our sins by faith in Him. What else did Jesus accomplish by dying on the cross (v.31)?

Jesus' crucifixion --- death on the cross for mankind, the atonement --- 1) ushered in God's judgment upon the world; and 2) resulted in casting out the 'ruler of this world' (Satan).

- 5) Take a close look at v.34. Did the crowd understand that Jesus was talking to them about dying on a cross? From the same verse, what was confusing to them about His statement? What does Jesus say has to happen for all mankind to be drawn to Him, and how does this apply to you?

Did they understand He was speaking about death (by crucifixion)? **Yes**

Confusion? **How could/why would the "Christ" die? The Law taught them that the Christ remains forever. Those hoping that Jesus was the Christ were confused about His proclamation that the Son of Man had to die by being lifted up (Roman crucifixion).**

What must happen? **Jesus must be "lifted up" before all men.**

My role? **"Being lifted up" is both literal and spiritual. As a believer in Jesus, it is my obligation to honor (lift up) Jesus by the way I live, speak and think. This becomes a testimony to others: as others see Jesus revered in MY life, they are compelled to consider Him!**

- 6) How do you understand 'to walk in the light' (see also 1 John 1:5-10)? What does it mean to walk in darkness (1 John 2:1-6)? If we're not careful, what does 'darkness' do to us (v.35)?

1 Jn. 1:5-10? **Walking in the light is to live a godly life. It is not a sinless life, but a sensitive one that upon recognition of sin, leads to confession and repentance. It is to sincerely live the Christian life that walks in fellowship (relationship) with God as mankind's Father.**

1 Jn. 2:1-6? **It is wrong and inappropriate to say to others we know (believe in) God --- but do not live obediently to His commandments. We are worse than liars...the truth is NOT in us!**

V.35? **The darkness is capable of 'overtaking' us (removing us from the light).**

- 7) If we walk in darkness --- that is, live sinfully --- there is a consequence to our relationship with God. God is light, and NO darkness abides in Him. We are found to be lying to ourselves and not "practicing" God's truth. How is genuine faith in God recognized (1 John 2:5b-6)?

Genuine faith? **We know we abide in Christ when we live the way He did --- obeying (keeping) God the Father's commandments. When this is going on, God's love is being perfected within us. (Remember the old slogan --- WWJD --- What would Jesus do?)**

- 8) (Personal – no discussion) --- Would you say that you are a 'son of light' or a 'child of darkness'? From 1 John 1:5-2:6, does your life convict you as a liar, one who talks one way (in faith) but actually lives another way (in sin)?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: