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John 12:23-33

23. “And Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24. ‘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.

25. ‘He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

26. ‘If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

27. ‘Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

28. ‘Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came out of heaven: ‘I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.’

29. So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, ‘An angel has spoken to Him.’

30. Jesus answered and said, ‘This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.

31. ‘Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

32. ‘And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.’

33. But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.”

Jesus knew that unless He died for mankind, the purpose of His life would go unfulfilled. The death of Jesus and the germination of new life through His resurrection would indeed bear much fruit. Prophetically He makes the following statement in verse 32: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”

This prophecy was fulfilled initially when Jesus went to the cross, rose from the dead, then ascended into heaven after forty days. The very day of His resurrection He started drawing men to Himself--appearing to Mary at the tomb, speaking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and then coming to the evening gathering of the apostles. On the day of Pentecost, after Jesus was glorified, the church began the great harvest of souls starting with three thousand being immersed into Christ and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the church continues to draw men to Christ by lifting up Jesus to this very day, nearly two thousand years later.

Jesus Himself said, “The Scripture cannot be broken,” (John 10:35). And so we see multitudes drawn to Christ by viewing the movie “The Passion of the Christ,” which vividly portrays the crucifixion of Christ. Many people for the first time, are seeing Jesus being lifted up from the earth on a cross. Others, like myself, who have read the account for years in the Bible, have received a visual realization which makes the words come to life. As the movie plays in theaters, and eventually in homes, across the globe, multitudes are and will

be drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as He said would happen.

So, as in the first century, the church must arise to do the follow-up. A person's initial conviction must be grounded and stabilized through enduring faith. As Romans 10:17 clearly states, "Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of Christ."

Now, more than ever, the church needs teachers. Teachers who will consistently and diligently present the Word of God--and specifically the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullest. People need their questions answered, in a timely and personal manner. The church needs to "step up to the plate," so to speak, and do as the first century church did--not only proclaim the Word publicly, but preach and teach "house to house" (Acts 5:42).

Let us fast and pray, and work--for the fields are white for harvest. Personally, I always figured the excavation and public display of Noah's ark would be the catalyst for a revival before the Lord returns. But maybe this movie is it!

This weekend the world celebrates the crucifixion of Christ on Friday, and His resurrection on Sunday. Praise God! Let's use this opportunity to the fullest to bring glory to God.

And who knows whether God has put you here, for such a time as this!