

The 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 15, 2024

“Christmas According to Jesus ~ Atonement”

John 12:20-33

In the previous chapter, John recounts Jesus’ raising of his friend Lazarus from the dead. As a result of this miracle, we’re told in verse 52 that from then on, the Jewish authorities plotted to kill Jesus. This is the _____ of Jesus’ ministry in John’s gospel.

In verse 27, Jesus speaks about the _____ entrusted to Him, telling them why He has come and what Christmas is really about.

“For this purpose, I have come for this hour.” (John 12:27)

“Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace according to your Word. For my eyes have seen the salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32)

Simeon had been waiting his entire life for the coming of the _____, and now the long-awaited Promised One was cradled in his arms.

“This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Luke 2:34-35)

Calling it “the hour” suggests to me, the idea of _____. It implies that this is an ordained and _____ moment, set by God in eternity for the accomplishment of His holy _____.

Everything—the hopes and fears of all the years, long before the creation of the universe—has been building up to and _____ on this moment in the life of Christ.

It’s the focal point of Jesus’ whole life, the _____ He was born.

It was established for Him long before He was born, and all the _____ of His life, every step that He took from Bethlehem to Galilee, and now here to Jerusalem, all lead toward this moment.

Jesus, of course, is referring to His _____. And so, in saying that His purpose is to come for this hour, He’s saying that Christmas is all about the _____—it’s all about His atoning death for the sins of the world.

Jesus’ _____ began that first Christmas in a stable in Bethlehem, and culminated that first Good Friday on the cross at Calvary.

There’s really no way to make _____ of the nativity without the crucifixion. Jesus was born to _____.

We’ll never fully grasp the significance of Christmas until we learn to look back at it from the vantage point of _____.

4 THEMES OF JESUS’ HOUR

Theme #1. The Hour of _____.

“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.” (v. 27)

Jesus is already in _____ as He contemplates what’s waiting for Him at the cross.

The thought of this makes Jesus shrink back, as any right thinking person would. And yet, although He might prefer to be saved from this hour, He prays instead that the Father would be _____ in the accomplishment of the hour.

“Father, if it be Your will, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I will but your will be done.” (Matthew 26:39)

Every day since then, from the manger to this very point, has all been about this _____ to the will and plan of God, even though that plan involves the cross.

Here is the _____ of Jesus, whose perfect humanity shrinks back from the suffering to come, but whose commitment to the will of the Father overrules and governs His life so that He _____ to the eternal plan and embraces the cross

It’s only in His obedience that disobedient sinners like me and you may ever hope to find any _____. It’s only under His submission to the will of God that we, “who like sheep who’ve gone astray and turned each one to his own way,” can hope to find _____.

“He became obedient to death, even death on the cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

Theme #2. The Hour of _____.

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” (v. 23)

“But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” (v. 27)

This seems _____. How could suffering and death ever equate with glory? The birth of Jesus that first Christmas was filled with _____. There's only violence, _____, darkness, and death at the cross

However, it's there, Jesus says, far more than at the manger, at the cross, that the Father was supremely _____.

"I have glorified it and I will glorify it again." (v. 28)

At the cross, the Father will _____ every other manifestation of His glory in the life of His Son, and surpass them all because it would be there at the cross, amidst gloom, darkness, and death, that the _____ on earth, heralded by the angel choir on the night of Jesus' birth, would actually be _____.

At the cross, the plan of the Father to _____ a people for Himself out of the mass of fallen humanity; a plan that began the moment Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, would at last be _____, where we'd least expect to find it.

Theme #3. The Hour of _____.

"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out." (v. 31)

The hour of Christ's climactic sufferings will force all people everywhere into one of two _____. No one can remain _____. Christmas happened—the nativity in all its beauty and sweetness happened—in order, one day, to bring about _____.

The cross demands a _____ from every person. It forces us to decide, and then on the basis of that decision, to one day give an _____. Judgment isn't just some distant, future event. It's a _____, accomplished reality in the cross of Jesus, demanding that we make a choice now.

Will you _____, to the One who was born and grew and obeyed and bled and died for your deliverance? Or, will you _____ harden your heart and _____ Him?

At the cross, Satan himself was _____. Just like the apparent paradox that the horror of the cross would be the place the Father is most glorified, so too in what appears to be abject defeat at the cross is the moment of Jesus' greatest _____. In what looks like the devil's victory, when the power of evil vents all its rage on the Son of God, precisely there, all the power of evil will be _____.

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 3:15)

The devil isn't God's equal; he's a _____ enemy. Christ has already won the victory.

Theme #4. The Hour of _____.

"I, when I am lifted up, will draw all people to myself." (v. 32)

These words are a reference to the bronze _____, in Numbers chapter 21, that Moses lifted up on a pole in the wilderness.

Jesus is saying here that when He is lifted up from the earth on the cross, He will be made a _____ for us; the object of divine condemnation in our place, with the condemnation my _____ deserves, your sin deserves, that all who look to Him in faith might be delivered.

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." (John 3:14-15)

Notice our deliverance isn't merely a possibility, but it's mere _____.

People from every walk of life, rich and poor, male and female, old and young, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, purchased at the cross, saved, _____ forever by Jesus.

Jesus' victory on the cross is _____ in scope, it has the praise of God in view, and there's no _____. One day, every single one of those for whom Jesus shed His blood, and who believed in Him, every one of all the ransomed church of God, will be saved to sin no more. This is our blessed _____. This is our _____ in the sight of God as a believer.

Our spiritual security, our peace, our hope, our certainty and assurance lies here: Jesus was born, obeyed, died, rose, and reigns; and His finished work in securing our salvation can't be defeated, can't be _____, can't be hindered, can't be stopped. He will _____ all who come to Him.

Every single person who _____ in Jesus, no matter how weak and fearful they may be, no matter who they are or what they've done, is utterly and unshakably secure forever because the babe of Bethlehem became the man of Calvary and shed His blood for them, and so they will not, cannot—you will not, cannot—be _____.