

“And I, If I Am Lifted Up From the Earth, Will Draw All Men To Myself.”

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Read John 12:20-36

John 12 is loaded with a cornucopia of truth. Our passage is lodged in the larger context of verses (20-36). Each movement within the larger whole is impregnated with significance. The overriding theme is who Jesus Christ is and what everyone must decide.

Our Lord struggled with what John calls “the hour.” His Father consistently affirms the nature of His Son’s work (v. 28). His cross work is a few short days away. Openly He speaks of the cross. It is through the cross that He will be “lifted up from the earth.” Through the cross He will draw “all men,” people from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation to Himself (v. 32).

The abject blindness of the people was consuming (v. 34). Yet Jesus continues to explain how He is light in darkness and through Him people from every tongue, tribe, and nation can be “sons of the light” (v. 36).

What arrests me is the absolute magnitude of His embrace. He will offer Himself up. He is the grain of wheat that must die so that life might spring forth. It is through His death that He will draw people from every tongue, tribe, and nation. No one is excluded from such a powerful embrace. It is sweeping in its circumference.

The drawing described in this statement is of equal weight. It is used of Peter drawing his sword from its sheath (John 18:10) and fish in a net (John 21:6, 11). It is also used of Paul and Silas being drawn into the marketplace by their antagonists (Acts 16:19) and out of a temple (Acts 21:30). It is also used to describe the Father drawing people to Himself (John 6:44).

It is not a neutral word as to who draws, how they are drawn, and the outcome of the drawing. Isaiah tells us that it pleased the Father to bruise His Son because through the bruising He would be glorified, and the end for which He was bruised would be secured (Isa. 53).

We do not know who will come, only that they will. Our great privilege is to share Christ with every tongue, tribe, people, and nation. From this means God will bring life. HE WILL DRAW PEOPLE FROM EVERY TONGUE, TRIBE, AND NATION TO HIMSELF. Today, we are either part of the drawing process or those who are being drawn. As a Christian, be engaged in sharing Christ with those around you. If you do not know Christ, then know this, He is calling to you to come and believe. All is done and waiting. May you find Him to be enough in this life and in the life to come.