

# John 12: Surrendered or Self-Serving

## *A Glorious Death*

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John 12.27-33

## A Troubled Heart

*“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name!”*

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*“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

JOHN 12.24

- ❖ In John’s Gospel, this is Jesus’ “Gethsemane” moment. The “hour” was now—the appointed time with its unavoidable demands of suffering and death—and Jesus is troubled in his soul (Gr. *psyche*).
  - ▶ *tarasso* - to agitate; trouble the mind with fear; to terrify, affect with anxiety

- ❖ Jesus lived every moment of his life with a full awareness that his destiny was death on the cross—

*During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.*

HEBREWS 5.7-9

- ❖ Jesus was troubled in his soul, but he was resolved in his spirit. The reason for his resolve: his surrender to the Father's will and his desire to glorify the Father.

*Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings You were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, my God.' "*

HEBREWS 10.5-7

- ❖ Confronted with the realities of the cost of fulfilling the will of his Father, Jesus emphatically rejected the course of a “secondary will” of the Father—a less costly way, which in reality would be disobedience.

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

PHILIPPIANS 2.8

- ❖ It was this way alone that would fully accomplish our salvation—
  - ▶ *But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*
  - ▶ *In bringing many sons and daughters to glory . . .*
  - ▶ *. . . so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*
  - ▶ *Once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.*
  - ▶ *And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

## A Glorious Death

*Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”*

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*He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.*

❖ The human reality is that the death of Jesus was a most vivid display of humanity’s wretched sin and depravity. Yet both the Father and the Son deemed it to be a “glorious” death. What made this troubling hour one of such glorious anticipation?

(1) “Now is the time of judgment for the world.”

▶ *krisis* - judicial procedure and decision; the administration of justice

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He . . . did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

(2) “Now the prince of this world will be driven out.”

▶ (*Greek noun and preposition*) - exorcised out; “thrown out from over us”

In John’s Gospel there are no exorcisms of demons, just this one total victory over the prince of demons. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the devil’s hold has been broken—he has been cast out of our lives. “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” and “greater is he who is in us than he who is in the world.” The devil may still have the world under his control (1 John 5.19), but in Christ, we are more than conquerors “through him who loved us and gave himself for us.”

(3) “I will draw all men to myself.”

- ▶ *draw* - (lit. and fig.) to drag

*“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”*

JOHN 3.14-15

- ▶ Sufficient atonement for *all sin* - Hebrews 10.10, 14
- ▶ Salvation for *anyone anywhere* - John 3.16; Revelation 7.9
- ▶ The gospel preached in *all the world* - Matthew 24.14
- ▶ The gospel preached to *the dead* - 1 Peter 4.6
- ▶ “*God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved*” - 1 Timothy 2.4

*But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

HEBREWS 2.9 ESV