

What shall I say, "Father, save me from this hour"?

he understands this is his purpose, the reason why he came to earth

he will pray to be saved *through* it rather than *from* it

what matters most to him is bringing glory to the Father's name

a voice from heaven confirms that it is being glorified thru him

We can pray to be useful to God through our difficulties, rather than to ask to be spared from them

Significance of the Impending Crucifixion

The world will be judged because of its rejection of Jesus as the Son of God

The prince of this world (Satan) will be driven out

what appears to be his greatest victory will turn out to be his defeat

the darkness that envelopes all will in turn be overcome by light

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself

the goal of the crucifixion was to draw all into relationship with him

those who reject him will ultimately acknowledge that he *is* Lord

Satan has great power, but not over the life of a Christian

Our task is to lift up Jesus; his task is to draw people to himself

We lift him up by being open to those not on our radar screens

We lift him up in every act of selflessness that honors him

We lift him up when we are useful in the midst of difficulties

We lift him up by keeping him as the center of our worship

We lift him up by focusing our small groups on his life & ministry

As we do this, we can claim his promises to draw others to him

LIFTING UP JESUS

INTRODUCTION

How many seeds are in this apple? How will we find out?

How many apples are in this seed? How will we find out?

We let the seed die, trust the natural process, and wait for God's results

Jesus says there is a very similar spiritual principle at work

JOHN 12:20-33

The Trigger Event for Jesus

He knew he had come *to* the Jews, but he also knew he had come *for* all

The request of the Greeks to interview Jesus was a sign for Jesus

Phillip didn't know how to handle this event; it was outside his box

Remember, God is pursuing people who are not yet on your radar screen

The Principle of Life Out of Death

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.

This principle holds true in gardens, orchards, fields...and our spiritual life

How much good fruit can we bear if we live for self and die to God?

How much good fruit can we bear if we die to self and come alive to God?

If we say we serve Christ, we must be willing to follow his example here

My Father will honor the one who serves me

We will never be fruitful spiritually until and unless we are willing to die to self-centeredness

Insights Into Jesus' Heart & Mind

The crucifixion he is facing is deeply troubling to him