

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 12:32-33**.
- B. There are various ways of approaching this great passage of scripture and preaching on it. However, it will always be true that the crucifixion of X is the great drawing card of all who will follow Him.
- C. The life and miracle of X are great; but only as X is lifted up will all men be drawn to Him.
- D. Shall we study this evening how that when X is lifted up He can draw all men, and how we are to lift up X to others.

I. MEN ARE BY NATURE FOLLOWERS.

- A. Man cannot determine his life by his own leadership:
 - 1. He cannot direct his own footsteps (Jer. 10:23).
I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.
 - 2. It is possible to follow a multitude to do evil (Ex. 23:2).
"You shall not follow a multitude in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice;"
 - 3. A way that seems right ends in death (Prov. 14:12).
There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
- B. Example of greeters at IL State Fair (people will follow walkers into the exhibit).
- C. Example of the period of the judges (no leader, everyone did what was right to them).

II. JESUS WAS LIFTED UP (SO THAT WE MIGHT FOLLOW HIM).

- A. Jesus was lifted up on the cross.
Both the world and God had turned their backs on Jesus. The crucifixion made possible our new life in X. It washed our sins away.
- B. Jesus was lifted up out of death.
His resurrection showed that death (the final enemy) will be conquered (1Cor. 15:54-55).
But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. 55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"
- C. Jesus was lifted up by God in the ascension.
He was seated on David's throne, on God's right hand (Ac. 2:29-32; Heb. 1:3).
(Ac 2:29-32) "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. 32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. (Heb 1:3) When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

III. JESUS CAN DRAW ALL MEN (WE CAN FOLLOW HIM).

- A. Jesus can draw all men because of the love He showed in His death (Lk. 22:42; Heb. 12:2).
(Lk 22:42) saying, "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done." (Heb 12:2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- B. Jesus can draw all men because He is the true image and revelation of God. "This is my beloved Son..." (Mt. 3:17; Jn. 1:1).
(Mt 3:17) and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Jn 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- C. Jesus can draw all men because He is the only perfect soul to live (Heb. 4:15; 2Cor. 5:21).

(2Cor 5:21) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(Heb 4:15) For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

- D. Jesus can draw all men because He satisfies the souls deepest desires (see Mt. 5:3-9).

IV. OUR RESPONSE TO A LIFTED UP CHRIST.

- A. We must continue to lift Him up by preaching the gospel (1Cor. 1:23-24).
but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, **24** but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- B. The gospel of a lifted up X gives hope (Jn. 10:10).
“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.”
- C. People today need someone to follow. How about a lifted up X!
- D. We must lift Him up because; He must be lifted up to draw all men.
- E. Let us not preach ourselves, but a lifted up X and He will do the drawing (2Cor. 4:5).
For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. All people need someone to follow because we cannot direct our own footsteps.
- B. Jesus has been lifted up so that He can draw all men unto Himself.
- C. We therefore, in life and doctrine must continue to lift up X so that He can continue to draw people to Himself.
- D. Let X draw you to Himself today.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.