



The Looming Cross

Do any of us fully understand what it cost both God the Father and Jesus, God the Son, to forgive our sins?

I think not.

When we pray as our Lord instructed,

Luke 11:2-4

**Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Give us
each day our daily bread, and
forgive us our sins, for we
ourselves forgive everyone who
is indebted to us. And lead us
not into temptation.**

**²“Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. ³Give us each
day our daily bread, ⁴and forgive us
our sins, for we ourselves forgive
everyone who is indebted to us.
And lead us not into
temptation.”** (Luke 11:2-4)

Luke 11:2-4

**Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Give us
each day our daily bread, and
forgive us our sins, for we
ourselves forgive everyone who
is indebted to us. And lead us
not into temptation.**

But, have we sat back and really thought how costly it was to God to make this prayer possible?

Forgive us our sins what an amazing thing God has done. We learn more about what this cost was from the verses we will explore this morning.

John 12:27-28

**Now My soul has become troubled;
and what shall I say, “Father, save
Me from this hour?” But for this
purpose I came to this hour.
“Father, glorify Your name.” Then
a voice came out of heaven:
“I have both glorified it,
and will glorify it again.”**

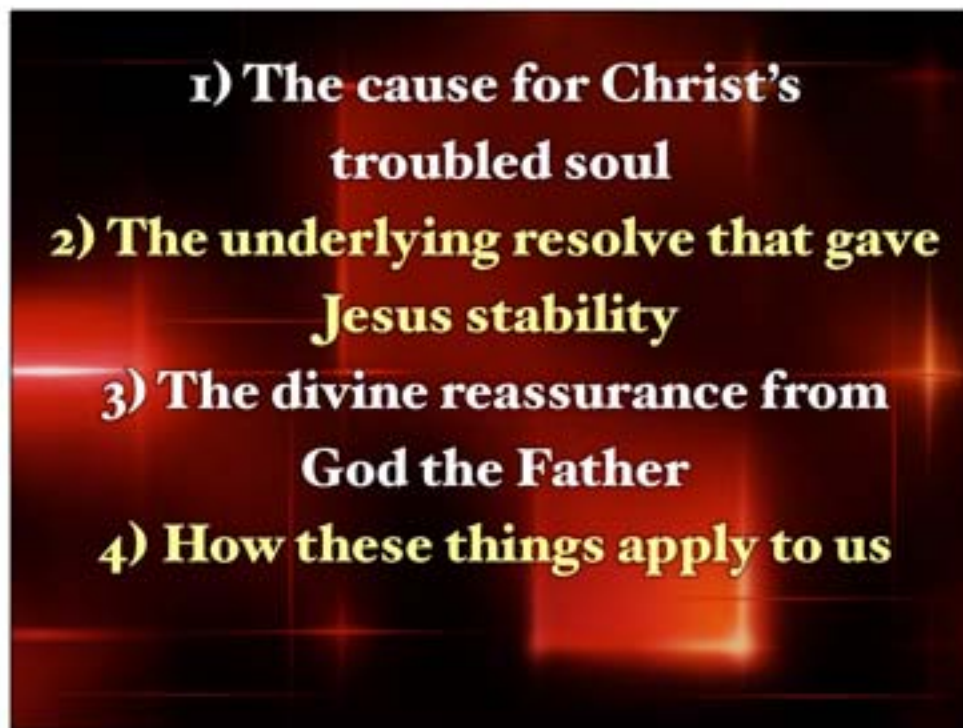
Read with me beginning in verse 27 of
John chapter 12,

**“Now My soul has become troubled;
and what shall I say, ‘Father, save
Me from this hour’? But for this
purpose I came to this hour. “Father,
glorify Your name.” Then a voice
came out of heaven: “I have both**

John 12:27-28

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and what shall I say, “Father, save
Me from this hour?” But for this
purpose I came to this hour.
“Father, glorify Your name.” Then
a voice came out of heaven:
“I have both glorified it,
and will glorify it again.”**

These verses tell us of the troubled heart and soul Jesus experienced and also teach and speak to us in a personal way. If we open our hearts we will find these verses teach us how we may find comfort when our souls are troubled.



1) The cause for Christ's troubled soul,

S 2) The underlying resolve that gave Jesus stability even in this time of trouble,

S 3) The divine reassurance from God the Father, and

S 4) How these things apply to us when we experience times of testing

The Looming Cross

Cause for Christ's Troubled Soul

Cause for Christ's Troubled Soul

This passage created some trouble for me this week. As I prayed and studied - I soon realized my trouble was because of my attitude which I will share towards the end of our time together this morning.

John 12:27

**Now My soul
has become
troubled**

Verse 27, **“Now My soul has become troubled,”**

Jesus is no mere man. If He was a mere man, I would not be shocked to read this, for all men have had to deal with troubled times in their lives and a fear of the unknown while wading into the approaching future.

John 12:27

**Now My soul
has become
troubled**

But, Jesus is no mere man! He is the Son of God, God incarnate – He is the Christ!

Jesus has control over nature. He stilled the raging waves on the Sea of Galilee and rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith, saying to them -

Mark 4:40

Why are you afraid?

**How is it that you
have no faith?**

**“Why are you afraid? How is it that
you have no faith?”** (Mark 4:40)

This is the God-man who raised
Lazarus from the dead by the
command of His voice,

John 11:43

**Lazarus,
come forth.**

“Lazarus, come forth.” (John 11:43)

This is the Jesus who told His disciples He would be betrayed, arrested, denied by Peter three times, crucified and resurrected. After He had said these things He told His disciples,

John 14:1

**Do not let your
heart be troubled;
believe in God,
believe also in Me.**

**“Do not let your heart be troubled;
believe in God, believe also in
Me.”** (John 14:1)

Yet how can the Son of God who
created the universe by –

Children can you tell me how God
created the universe?

John 12:27

**Now My soul
has become
troubled**

Now My soul has become troubled.

Can this be inconsistent with a
sovereign God?

As I mediated on this, I became more keenly aware that physical death was not what Jesus was dreading. Just a few verses prior to this we saw that a

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

These Greeks must have brought to His mind that not only the Jews but also millions upon millions of Greeks and Gentiles would be united to God through their faith in Him. His mission on earth was almost complete, but to complete this mission, He had to be murdered. It was only by His death that He would atone for the

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

It is clear that Jesus' focus was not on His physical death, for He knew He would rise and live again. It was spiritual death that troubled His soul. Jesus had never spent one second of unbroken fellowship with God the Father, for they had always been One.

John 12:27

**Now My soul
has become
troubled**

Even though Jesus was God and had come to earth in the flesh of a man, and even though He was tempted as all men are, He had never known sin. He was soon to be made the bearer of sin, separating Him, for the first and only time, from His Father.

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

Jesus, as a man, would bear terrible physical pain in His dying. This He could accept for it fulfilled the plan of God and benefited mankind. But Jesus of the Trinity and now Jesus as the man-God had enjoyed a relationship with God the Father unbroken from eternity past.

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

For all eternity up to the point of His death He had been One with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

From history we are told of Socrates the great Greek philosopher and teacher. His teaching style came to be known as “Socratic discussion” and is

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

Another great writer from history, Plato wrote of Socrates death and that Socrates had been condemned to death for teaching his students in Athens the doctrine that there is no deity or atheism. He accepted his death sentence by drinking hemlock calmly, but while he waited for the hemlock potion to arrive he continued

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

He taught that the body and soul belong to two different worlds and no one should fear death. The death of the body does not affect the soul, but it sets the soul free. When the hemlock potion came he drank it calmly and lay down to die. He saw death not as a horrible end, but as needed to free the soul. For the soul was trapped in the

John 12:27

**Now My soul
has become
troubled**

Socrates attitude and approach to death was quite different from that of Jesus. All the gospels agree that as Jesus' death approached He trembled and grew troubled. Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray,

Mark 14:33-34

And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.”

And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. And He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.” (Mark 14:33-34)

In Gethsemane He prayed three times

Mark 14:36

Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me

yet not what I will, but what You will.

“Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me...” and then concludes, **“...S yet not what I will, but what You will.”** (Mark14:36)

What this does **NOT** mean is that at last Jesus came to terms with His impending death and after wrestling

Mark 14:36

Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me

yet not what I will, but what You will.

and came to understand as Socrates that killing of the body frees the soul. What it **DOES** mean is that His physical death, as horrible as the crucifixion would be, He was determined to experience physical death for the salvation of mankind.

Mark 14:36

Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me

yet not what I will, but what You will.

What troubled Him was His separation from God the Father for the first time spiritually, this troubled His soul, and yet, He was equally determined to fulfill this as well.

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

So this is the meaning of “**Now My soul has become troubled?**” We cannot begin to understand the depth of this spiritual pain of separation for we have never experienced a spiritual oneness with God and will not until we reach heaven. We do have a relationship with God because of our faith in Jesus but it is only a shadow of

John 12:27

Now My soul has become troubled

Think of the pain by being separated from one you love dearly – mother, father, spouse or child and then multiple that by the thousands and then we can begin, only begin to understand what the death of Christ cost both God the Father and Jesus the Son. Yet, Jesus was resolved to fulfill God plan for the salvation of

The Looming Cross

Underlying Resolve

Underlying Resolve

In spite of the depth of trouble by the impending spiritual separation from God the Father, Jesus had complete resolve to fulfill His mission. This is why we need to read verse 27 in its entirety,

John 12:27

**Now My soul
has become
troubled**

“Now My soul has become troubled.”

There is no hint here of Jesus pulling back or flinching at His mission as is evidenced as He continues speaking,

**Now My soul has become
troubled.**

**What shall I say, “Father, save
Me from this hour? But for this
purpose I came to this hour.”**

“Father, glorify Your name.”

**“what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me
from this hour’? But for this
purpose I came to this hour.”**

Jesus then sums up His thought here
and His mission on earth saying,

S ²⁸**“Father, glorify Your name.”**

John 12:27-28

**Now My soul has become
troubled.**

**What shall I say, “Father, save
Me from this hour? But for this
purpose I came to this hour.”**

“Father, glorify Your name.”

I want to point out a key concept with Jesus' statement here. It is obvious to me that Jesus had not backed off of His resolve to physically die. We know that Jesus had the resolve to die for the salvation of all those who God calls to Himself, but this is not the reason Jesus gives us here. So then, here is the reason for His resolve.

John 12:27-28

**Now My soul has become
troubled.**

**What shall I say, “Father, save
Me from this hour? But for this
purpose I came to this hour.”**

“Father, glorify Your name.”

By His death He will glorify the Father and that is His prime directive. So even though Jesus the man will suffer physically a horrible death and Jesus the Son of God will suffer by being spiritually separated from God the Father for the first time - Jesus will not waiver from the path that God the Father has chosen for Him.

**Now My soul has become
troubled.**

**What shall I say, “Father, save
Me from this hour? But for this
purpose I came to this hour.”**

“Father, glorify Your name.”

His primary purpose is to glorify the Father, not our salvation. Our salvation is the fruit or benefit of Jesus' love and obedience to the Father.

The Looming Cross

God Glorified

God Glorified

Was God the Father glorified by Jesus' death? Yes, He was. To confirm Jesus' resolve, faithfulness and His primary directive of glorifying God the Father all those who were with Jesus

**Then *heard* a voice *that*
came out of heaven *saying*:
“I have both glorified it,
and will glorify it again.”**

“They heard a voice that came out of heaven saying: ‘I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.’” Wow! Can you imagine being there and hearing this? You come to realize that God’s name had already been glorified in Christ for the voice from heaven spoke of the past. John wrote in the opening verses of his gospel the

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

¹ “In the beginning was the Word (*Jesus*), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” (John1:1-3)

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Jesus spoke the universe into existence. It is because of the Word of God that we know Jesus was conceived by the power of God the Holy Spirit so the holy God of the universe would save the rebellious creatures that had turned from God who gave them life. This is why the angels praised the glory of God and

Luke 2:11-13

“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying -

We read in Luke **“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.**

Luke 2:13

“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying -

And suddenly there appeared with the angel (*the angel who was speaking to the shepherds*) a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying

Luke 2:14

**Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace among men with
whom He is pleased.**

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace among men with whom
He is pleased.”** (Luke 2:14)

Luke 2:14

**Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace among men with
whom He is pleased.**

Jesus' life was lived in obedience to God and with the primary purpose of His life was to glorify God the Father. After His birth there were the quiet years in Nazareth learning as all children do from His earthly adopted father Joseph. Learning the work of a carpenter, possibly knowing times of poverty, sometimes experiencing

Luke 2:14

**Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace among men with
whom He is pleased.**

Because of His ministry He learned what it meant to be rejected even by His own family, being despised for being true to God, being sought to be murdered by those who claimed to be God's holy people. Jesus had some, a remnant of believers, but then at the cross many of these people saw their dreams shattered and the deserted

Luke 2:14

**Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace among men with
whom He is pleased.**

Then God shatters the bonds of death itself by raising Jesus from the dead, but many did not return to faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit is sent to strengthen the disciples and believers so that they might proclaim Jesus as the Messiah to the lost and many come to believe in Jesus as the Christ, but the world continues to reject the very

Luke 2:14

**Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth
peace among men with
whom He is pleased.**

God was and is glorified and continues to be glorified in His remnant church to this very day. History has demonstrated that God's plan will unfold as He has determined and as Christ demonstrated. By this we can have full confidence that the day will come when Christ will return in glory to judge the living and the dead and by

Revelation 5:13

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

The angels who sang at Jesus birth will once again sang,

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb (*Jesus*), *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” (Revelation 5:13)

Revelation 5:13

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

Both history and the Bible demonstrate that Jesus was born, grew to become a man and preached the gospel. He died and rose from the dead and all this was for the glory of God. But, Jesus was God, so how does this relate to us? Yes, the short quick answer is that He gave us salvation, but He gave us more – He gave

The Cross Behind

**When We
Are Troubled**

When We Are Troubled

Is your soul ever troubled? Will your soul be troubled in the future? The answer is of course, “yes.” What are we to do when someone we love dies, we lose our job, we are unjustly sued, we are told after the tests by the doctors that we have cancer, when we

The Cross Behind

**When We
Are Troubled**

We are to look to the example of our Lord and Master. We are to reach into the depth of our souls and shout,

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

²⁸**“Father, glorify Your name.”** If I am to suffer by losing my health, then Lord may You be glorified in my sickness. If I lose my wealth that I have worked so hard to accumulate, Lord may You be glorified in my poverty. If I lose my life, may my death bring You glory and may I not lose sight of my resurrection I have in Christ.

John 12:28

Father

Look at the first word spoken here by Jesus, “**Father.**”

Jesus is in anguish for He desired not to be spiritually separated from God the Father. As He utters, “Father” and His anguish is transformed.

John 12:28

Father

Do we not see this when as children we ran to our earthy fathers in pain or fear and when we said, “Daddy, Father” and he took us into his arms things suddenly become better and we find peace coming into our hearts.

John 12:28

Father

As adults we can find ourselves in the midst of painful circumstances, we do not know where to turn and it seems our friends have vanished. Yet, if we turn to our heavenly Father, we see we are not alone and there is hope, even though the circumstances have not changed around us, **they have changed in us**

John 12:28

Father

because God touches our very soul. Socrates was wrong in his concept that the body and soul are NOT connected while we are here on earth and we can only experience the freeing of our soul by death. As Christians we know that before death our body and soul works together through our faith in Jesus. It is Christ that breathes life into our soul.

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

Jesus says, “**Father**” and His next words are, **S** “**glorify Your name.**” How blessed we are when we follow this example, when in all circumstances we say, “**Father, glorify Your name.**” As Christians we intellectually want God to be glorified, but as fallen sinners we do not want it to be at our expense or in a way we do

John 12:28

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

In our heart we hear God asking,
“What is the chief purpose of man?”
This has been written into the
Westminster Catechism to help remind
us. Are there any children that can
answer this question?

Any adults?

John 12:28

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

From the Catechism we know the answer well, “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” Then in our heart we also know that this is our purpose, this is the purpose of each one of us here.

John 12:28

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

If God graces us with health, peace, wealth, talent – praise God, glorify God and we are to enjoy God. If God graces us with illness, handicap, suffering and poverty – we are to equally praise God, glorify God, find peace in God and enjoy Him.

John 12:28

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

God is saying do not worry by what means He has chosen for each of us to glorify Him, but find peace and joy in Him for like Christ, our example, we know our prime directive is to glorify God in all things.



The Cross Behind

Application

Application

This was one of those weeks that I wanted to just go to my files of old sermons and pick one. The best of pastor Bill's sermons – coming on DVD to a store near you. The problem is that simply doesn't work. In my secular job, it was one of the hardest

The Cross Behind

Application

As some of you are aware a man whom I do not know and have never met has unjustly sued me. This week after the deposition I could not concentrate on my sermon study and did some honey dos around the house. The honey does needed to be done for some time. But I was supposed to be praying, meditating and working on my

The Cross Behind

Application

I certainly do not believe what has been happening to me is fair. So I wineed a little, and then tried to return to preparing this morning's message. Then as I earnestly began to pray and study I was deeply convicted. In my heart I heard God asking, "Bill, what is the chief purpose of your life?" I immediately knew I was in trouble – I

The Cross Behind

Application

My own words came to me, “If God graces us with health, peace, wealth, talent – praise God, glorify God and we are to enjoy God. If God graces us with illness, handicap, suffering and poverty – we are to equally praise God, glorify God, find peace in God and enjoy Him.”

The Cross Behind

Application

Just as Jesus had the resolve to be faithful and fulfill God's plan and He did so for the glory of God. Then in my own little life I need to do the same. Jesus did not argue with God the Father that life was not fair and neither can I. How about you? If you are not at peace, even if the world is exploding around you, then reach into the depth

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

²⁸**“Father, glorify Your name.”** I found this week that once I did this, then peace returned and I could continue to have peace no matter what the outcome of the world around me – and a voice from heaven assured me that I have Christ, crucified, but that He is risen!

Philippians 1:18b-20

“Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

“Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in

John 12:28

**Father,
glorify
Your name**

How about you? Can you say in ALL things – I am desperately trying to say in all things -

²⁸**“Father, glorify Your name.”**