

-S- Children's Moment

November 16, 2014

Title: **-S-** I Am Proud of You

Object: Photo Album

Scripture: **-S-** And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)


-S- I am sure that you will recognize what is up on the screen. **-S-** It is a photo album. Most parents have several photo albums full of pictures taken of their children as they were growing up. **-S-** We have always been very proud of our children and everything they did. We took pictures of them in school, at church, pictures of them playing, at Christmas time, on their birthdays, and many other occasions. We were proud of them as they grew up and we are proud of them today.

Do you think God was proud of His son, Jesus?

I know God was, because the Bible tells us that He was. **-S-** When Jesus was baptized, the Bible tells us that there was a voice from heaven that said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Why do you think God was pleased with His son?

-S- I think that one reason God was proud of His Son is that the Bible tells us that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." It makes a father proud to watch His children grow in maturity and become wiser. And, of course, a father wants his child to be well-liked and respected by other people. I think the main reason that God was proud of Jesus is that Jesus always did what His Father sent Him to do. Do you always do what your father or mother tells you to

do? I doubt if any of us could answer, "yes" to that question -- but Jesus could.  Jesus said "I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." (John 6:38) That would make a Father proud, wouldn't it?

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we become the children of God. Our baptism is like an official adoption ceremony. God is proud of us from the very beginning when we become His children because that is what He wants us to be. And like a good Father - or a good mother - God is there to help us do all the other things He asks us to do - things like loving our brothers and sisters - and forgiving and helping one another - and sharing the good things that He gives us with those who are in need.

Wouldn't you like to be the kind of child that would cause God to look down from heaven, as He did with Jesus, and say, "My child, I am proud of you?" I would like to be like that - and every day I try to be, knowing that God loves me and is there to help me be the kind of child He wants me to be.

Father, we want to be the kind of children You want us to be. Help us each day to do the things that are pleasing to You. Amen.

-S- Answer, Anticipation and Abandonment

Sermon #70

John 12:28-34

The Answer of the Father *(Verses 28-30)*

In our passage this morning this is second of three times recorded in the scriptures that the voice of God the Father came audibly out of heaven. Can any one tell me what the first time was? We find the answer in Matthew, “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.***’” (Matthew 3:16-17) Who can tell me the third time? After the resurrection Jesus took Peter, James and John to the mountain and Jesus was transfigured before them. Moses and Elijah met Jesus in the sky. Peter started to speak and “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, ‘***This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!***’” (Matthew 17:5) As the cross-loomed ever nearer, God the Father authenticated Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus says here in verse 28, “***Father, glorify Your name.***” Jesus had glorified the Father from eternity past. The audible voice of God the Father responded from heaven, “***I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.***” God had already glorified His name through Jesus’ birth, life and ministry. God reassured the disciples that His name would again be glorified through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus’ death would marked the closing of His earthy ministry. His resurrection would mark the completion of His mission given to Him by the Father. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came to the earth “***to seek and to save that which was lost***” (Luke 19:10) and to “***to give His life a ransom for many.***” (Mark 10:45) With this accomplished, Jesus would soon return in glory to the Father and

“BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND of the power OF GOD.” (Luke 22:69) It is because of His mission and the cross before Him that Jesus prayed His high priestly prayer, ¹“Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ²even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³This is eternal life, that they (*believers*) may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵**Now**, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” (John 17:1-5) This is the last week of Jesus’ earthy ministry and where His heart and mind were.

In our study passage the fact that God the Father spoke from heaven made it obvious to everyone present that God had answered Jesus’ prayer. The people may have been bewildered as John wrote, “So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, ‘An angel has spoken to Him.’ ” (v.29) It appears they were unable to understand or grasp the meaning and some tried to explain what they heard away as thunder. In the Old Testament thunder is associated with the voice of God. Moses spoke to God on Mount Sinai and “God answered him with thunder.” (Exodus 19:19) David cried out to God and “The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice.” (2 Samuel 22:14) As the Apostle John observed, “Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder.” (Revelation 4:5) John also wrote, “I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder.” (Revelation 14:2) Others said they thought it was “An angel who had spoken to (Jesus) Him.” Both of these were incorrect for it was neither thunder nor an angel. Although the people recognized that what they heard was from heaven, they did

not understand, which illustrated the condition of their hearts. They were hard-hearted. The issue then, as it is today, is **not** that God is silent. It is that fallen, sinful people are spiritually deaf. They do not want to listen or they are too busy living in the fallen world to listen.

Also unbelievers live in the fallen world as the spiritually “**dead in their trespasses and sins.**” (Ephesians 2:1) Paul made clear to the Colossians that unbelievers belong to Satan’s “**domain of darkness.**” (Colossians 1:13) “**The god of this world (who is the god of this world?) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**” (2Corinthians 4:4) For unbelievers, the “**natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.**” (1 Corinthians 2:14) This explains why the people who heard the voice of God the Father from heaven did not understand and tried to explain away what they heard. However, the voice did not come exclusively for Jesus’ sake, since He did not need to hear the audible voice of the Father to know His prayer was answered. The voice came to strengthen the faith of the believers that were with Jesus and convey to them that Jesus was the Son, the Messiah.

Anticipation of Victory (Verses 31 & 32)

As Jesus approached the cross, He was strengthened by the knowledge of the coming triumph and victory that would be accomplished on the cross. Reading verses 31 and 32, ³¹“**Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.**” ³²“**And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.**” Jesus says His death would bring “**judgment upon this world.**” The “**world**” spoken of here is the spiritual world under satanic rule, which would be broken. At the cross judgment began for Satan, his demons and all those people

who rebel against God. Judgment will come upon all who continue their rebellion by rejecting the Son sent by the Father and **judgment will be complete** at the second coming of Christ. You may recall that a conversation between Jesus and His brothers is recorded earlier in John in which Jesus tells them that the world will not judge them for their unbelief in Him as Messiah. Jesus said, **“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.”** (John 7:7) The unsaved world embraces Satan and hates the eternal truth of Jesus because He convicts the world of its sin. Satan’s assumed victory over Jesus at the cross was, in truth, his death knell and the doom of the unbelieving world was sealed for all who reject Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, ⁴⁷**“If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”** ⁴⁸He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.” (John 12:47) In verse 32 Jesus said, **“Now judgment is upon this world.”** Did Jesus come to judge or not? Are the scriptures in contradiction? No! Jesus came to save mankind and not to judge them. God and the Word that God has given judges mankind. In addition, when a person rejects Jesus, they also reject God the Father and His Word. People, from the time of the cross and to this present day, bring condemnation upon themselves, receiving eternal hell by their willful rejection of the Christ. **“He who believes in Him (Jesus) is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”** (John 3:18)

Verse 31 says, **“now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”** Jesus is not saying that Satan is immediately cast out from the earth into the Lake of Fire. However, Satan is cast out in the sense that he loses his authority and grip on this world.

Satan's power and rule over the earth has been diminished since the cross of Christ. When Jesus returns and the earth is destroyed, all that Satan has had rule over will be destroyed and Satan will have nothing left to rule. The Apostle Peter wrote, ⁷“But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.” (2 Peter 3:7 & 10) What we see here is a mixture of destruction and hope. Destruction is for Satan and all who serve him because of their rejection of Christ. There is also great hope for all those who come to the Father through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is seen in the cross and this is what verse 32 is saying, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”

Many have misinterpreted this verse “will draw all men to Myself” to say that all people will come to Christ and be saved. This misinterpretation is one by which the men have come up with the heretical doctrines of Purgatory and Universalism. “...will draw all men to Myself” when studied in context with the entire breath of scripture, means “all men” or all people whom the Father has preordained will come to Christ. As Paul made clear to the Romans, “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.” (Romans 8:29-30) Verse 32, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself” also makes clear that people are saved by believing in the work of Christ on the cross.

Jesus declared to the people that the method for drawing people to Him as the

Christ was by drawing them to the cross. There is no access or relationship with God apart from the cross, because only through Christ's death is sin atoned for. "When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*" (Hebrews 9:11-12) Those who believe "in", who have taken Christ into their hearts, minds and souls are given salvation that cannot be lost – an eternal relationship with God. On-the-other-hand those who are unsaved have eternal hell and damnation.

The Abandonment of the People (Verse 34)

Most of the crowd, because they were spiritually deaf and dead, could neither understand God the Father who spoke from heaven or Christ who was speaking directly to them. They could not grasp the truth that the Messiah had to die for the glory of God, ³⁴ "The crowd then answered *(Jesus)* Him, 'We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?' " The people say, "We have heard out of the Law" is a reference to the entire Old Testament. The people were still looking for a messiah that would defeat the Romans, establish Israel as a powerful kingdom and rule forever.

The prophet Isaiah wrote in one of many verses telling of the coming Messiah, "There will be no end to the increase of *(the Messiah's)* His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:7) The people looked at these verses like this in

the Old Testament and understood the Messiah would reign forever. Jesus used the title Son of Man for Himself and because in Ezekiel and Daniel the title “Son of man” is used 63 times we know these verses were often quoted regarding the Messiah. So the people understood that by using this title, Son of Man, Jesus was claiming to be the Messiah. They then expected Him to take reign over Israel and rule forever if He was truly the Messiah.

Unfortunately, they forgot that the Old Testament clearly taught that the Messiah had to come and die. In Daniel, chapter nine, is the prophecy of the seventy weeks of years, we read “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off.” (Daniel 9:26) This is saying that the Messiah would come and be cut off or killed. The prophet Zechariah quoted God, “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.” (Zechariah 12:10) God said He was giving Israel the Spirit of grace and of supplication and after He was pierced or killed they would realized what they had done and many would look to God. Prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus’ death on the cross, “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.” (Zechariah 13:1) The image of Jesus on the cross and His blood be spilt as a fountain.

The most detailed prophecy of Jesus’ sacrificial death is found in Isaiah chapters 52 and 53. There is so much detail written here that we could spend weeks, if not months, on Isaiah’s writing alone. In brief, Isaiah said, “But He (*the Messiah*) was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities.” (Isaiah 53:3) A few verses later we read, “By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and

as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due?*" (Isaiah 53:8) If the Messiah was to be pierced and cut off out of the land of living this certainly is speaking of His death. The stroke of death is due for all who sin and that is everyone, but Jesus paid this price for the transgression of my people.

The Jewish people are still waiting for the first coming of the Messiah and believe He will crush their enemies and establish an eternal kingdom. We know through scriptures and so they should also know the Messiah will come to judge and establish His eternal kingdom but not at the first coming, instead at the return of the King or second coming of Christ. Because of their lack of understanding of their own scriptures they ask a mocking question of Jesus the Christ, "Who is this Son of Man?" (v. 34) This question can only mean that the majority of the people did not believe that Jesus was the Son of Man or Messiah. They simply could not reconcile their belief in a conquering Messiah that ruled forever with Jesus' saying that the Messiah must die for the glory of God.

Conclusion

Resisting temptation to avoid the coming suffering on the cross for an unbelieving, stiff-necked and hard hearted people, Jesus does exactly what He came to earth to do – die for the glory of God. Read along with brother Phil as He reads from Hebrews – "Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, 'SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME; IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE. THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) **To do Your Will, O God.**' After saying above, 'SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE *in them*' (which are offered

according to the Law), then He said, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.’ He takes away the first in order to establish the second.”^(Hebrews 10:5-9) Jesus is the final sacrifice; the only true sacrifice and no sacrifice besides Jesus will bring pleasure to God. We are saved by grace not the trying, but failing to fulfill the Law.

Jesus’ death on the cross was an act of submission to God. “For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (*Jesus*) the many will be made righteous.”^(Romans 5:19) His death was a substitution offered to God on behalf of sinners. As Peter wrote, “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”^(1 Peter 2:24) Christ death also satisfied God’s wrath against sin on behalf of the elect. “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”^(1 John 4:10)

As a result of Jesus’ life, ministry, death and resurrection “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”^(Romans 8:1) Here is the glory of Christ—because He endured the death that God the Father required as the price for sin, believers enjoy the everlasting glory of eternal life in the presence of God. To this I say, “Glory Halleluiah – Praise Be to God!”

My Beloved, God asks no less of you than to live your life for the glory of Christ! Will you be obedient, just our Lord and Savior Jesus was obedient to death? By the power of the Holy Spirit we say yes, Lord, yes! Amen!