

3-15-26 His Hour: When Love Spoke from the Cross

Week 2

Text: John 12:27–36

Topics: Cross, Love, Language, Justice, Mercy, Messiah, Jesus, Light

Big Idea of the Message: Jesus is the Light who reveals the love of God through the language of the cross.

Application Point: Because Christ stepped into the darkness for us, Christians are called to walk in the light and shine it toward others.

Introduction:

Let's be honest about something. We are experts at avoiding things we don't want to face.

If the dentist says, "You should probably come back in six months," what we hear is, "See you in 2029."

If the doctor says, "You might want to change your diet," suddenly we become experts in selective hearing.

And if someone says, "We need to talk," we immediately look for the nearest exit.

Human beings have an incredible ability to postpone uncomfortable moments.

But some moments cannot be avoided.

You can delay them. You can distract yourself from them. You can pretend they're not coming. But eventually the clock strikes the hour.

In **John 12**, Jesus reaches that hour.

And instead of avoiding it, instead of escaping it, He says something astonishing: "**Now my soul is troubled.**"

Jesus feels the full weight of the cross. But instead of running from it, He walks straight toward it.

Because the cross was the moment when God would speak His love in the clearest language humanity has ever heard.

The cross is not God clearing His throat. It is God shouting His love in a language we cannot misunderstand.

I. **“Now My Soul Is Troubled” - Love Felt the Weight of the Cross**

- **Read John 12:27-28**
- Jesus is no longer hinting. The clock is loud now.
- **John 2:4, “My hour has not yet come.” John 7:30, “His hour had not yet come.” John 8:20, “His hour had not yet come.”**
- **John 12:23, “The hour has come that the Son of man should be glorified.”**
- From this point on in John, everything moves toward Calvary and the cross.
- John 12-19 is in the final week of Jesus’ life. Passion week.
- **John 12:27, “Now My soul is troubled.”**
- The word troubled (tarasso – ταρασσω) means deeply shaken, stirred, distressed to the core.
- This same word, “tarasso” appears in John 11:33, Jesus was troubled at Lazarus’ tomb. And John 13:21, Jesus was troubled before predicting Judas’ betrayal.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. 5:21

- This is not divine indifference. This is incarnate agony.
- Jesus knew the cross was coming. Jesus felt the cross before it came. Jesus chose the cross anyway.
- He doesn’t pray, “Save Me from this.” He prays, **“For this purpose I came.”**
- **Jesus feels the horror of the cross but still chooses obedience.**
- The cross was not a tragedy... it was the mission.

John Stott famously said, “The cross was not forced upon Christ; He embraced it.”

Application:

If Jesus had a purpose that led Him through suffering, why do we assume obedience will always feel comfortable?

Sometimes the will of God is heavy (PAUSE)... but it is never pointless.

II. **The Cross Is God’s Love Language**

- We live in a world obsessed with expressions of love. Flowers fade. Jewelry gets lost. Words can lie.
- Jesus defined love like this: **“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life...” (John 15:13)**
- God didn’t send a gift. God became the gift.
- The cross is: not Plan B, not divine child abuse, and not an accident, it is the clearest sentence God has ever spoken.

- **Romans 5:8** doesn't say God loved us at our best. It says, **"while we were yet (still) sinners.... Christ died for us."**
- The cross proves God loves us at our darkest.
- **Hesed love:** God pursues us regardless of where we are, or how we perform.

Application:

If you ever doubt God's love: don't look at your feelings, don't look at your circumstances, look at the cross.

Love doesn't get clearer than nails and blood.

III. Heaven Spoke - Justice Was Satisfied, Mercy Was Released

- **Read verses 28-32.**
- The voice from heaven is not for Jesus... it's for the crowd. **"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."**
- This is one of the rare moments where God audibly speaks in the New Testament.
- The others include Jesus' baptism and the Transfiguration.
- God's voice was audible, but not all understood it, **verse 29.**

But the natural man (spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. 2:14

- At the cross: Sin is judged. Satan is defeated. Mercy and grace are unleashed
- Jesus says: **"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."**
- Simple Gospel Clarity: God did not ignore sin. God did not excuse sin. God absorbed sin.
- Justice demanded payment. Mercy paid the bill.
- Jesus said at the cross, He would draw all people to Himself. He did not mean everybody will be saved, He made it clear that some would remain (**John 5:28-29**).
- This means that God will draw indiscriminately (**John 6:44**).
- Those saved will include not only Jews, but also those from every tribe, language, people, and nation (**Rev. 5:9; John 10:16; 11:52**).

Leon Morris, "The arrival of the Greeks signals that the mission of Jesus is expanding beyond Israel."

- The phrase "lifted up" has two meanings in John: Physical lifting - Jesus lifted up on the cross. Exaltation - Jesus glorified through His sacrifice.

- God is just - sin must be judged. God is merciful - sinners can be saved. The cross is where those meet.

1 John 4:18, There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- Jesus didn't just confront evil... He stood in its place.

V. The Wrong Messiah vs. the Real Messiah (vv. 33–34)

- **Read Verses 33-34.**
- The crowd wanted: a conqueror, a liberator, earthly reign, not a crucified Savior. A throne, not a cross. Victory without repentance.
- Jesus wanted: salvation through sacrifice.
- First-century Jews misunderstood Jesus. Twenty-first-century culture still does.
- Some want: Jesus the therapist. Jesus the mascot. Jesus the life coach.

But Jesus defines Himself:

“And I, if I am lifted up.... I will draw all people to Myself.” (v.32)

- You don't get to redefine Jesus. You respond to Him.

VI. Walk While You Have the Light

- **Read verses 35-36.**
- Jesus brings it home. Light is available - but not forever.
- **“Walk”** implies daily movement, intentional direction.
- Faith is not standing still. Faith moves toward the light.
- Those who believe become: **“sons of light”**

Application:

1. Trust God Even When Obedience Feels Heavy

- Jesus said, **“Now my soul is troubled,”** yet He still moved toward the cross.
- Following God will not always feel easy or comfortable. Sometimes obedience feels costly.
- Stay faithful when following Christ brings difficulty.
- Choose obedience even when it costs reputation, comfort, or convenience.
- Remember that suffering for the right purpose is never wasted.
- God's will may feel heavy at times, but it is never meaningless.

2. Measure God's Love by the Cross, Not Your Circumstances

- Feelings change. Circumstances change. The cross does not.
- When life becomes confusing or painful, believers must anchor their understanding of God's love in the sacrifice of Christ.
- When doubt creeps in, revisit the gospel.
- Meditate on passages about Christ's sacrifice (**Romans 5:8, Isaiah 53**).
- Let the cross be your reminder that God's love is settled and proven.
- If you ever question God's love, look to the cross, love does not get clearer than nails and blood.

3. Receive the Mercy Christ Paid For

- The cross shows that justice and mercy meet in Jesus.
- Some people try to carry guilt that Christ has already paid for.
- Stop trying to earn forgiveness.
- Confess sin honestly and accept the grace Christ provides.
- Live in freedom that comes from knowing your debt has been paid.
- Jesus didn't ignore your sin... He absorbed it.

4. Stop Trying to Redefine Jesus

- The crowd wanted a Messiah who fit their expectations, but Jesus came as a suffering Savior.
- Modern culture often tries to reshape Jesus into something comfortable.
- But Jesus is not: just a motivational teacher, just a moral example, just a spiritual guide, He is the crucified and risen Savior.
- Let Scripture define who Jesus is.
- Submit your life to Him rather than reshaping Him to fit your preferences.
- You don't redesign Jesus; you respond to Him.

5. Walk in the Light Every Day

- Jesus said, **"Walk while you have the light."**
- Faith is not a one-time moment; it is a daily walk.
- Spend time daily in God's Word.
- Make decisions that reflect the character of Christ.
- Choose integrity even when no one is watching.
- Faith is not standing still, it is walking toward the light.

6. Let the Light of Christ Shine Through Your Life

- Those who believe become **"sons of light."**

- Christians are called not only to receive the light but also to reflect it.
- Forgive people who wrong you.
- Show kindness when it is inconvenient.
- Speak truth with grace and courage.
- Love people who feel unlovable.
- You don't have to be loud to be bright.

The cross proved God's love. The empty tomb proved His power.

Now the question is, will you walk in His light?

Closing:

The cross says:

- You are more sinful than you feared
- You are more loved than you imagined

God has spoken. Not in thunder. Not in theory. But in a cross-shaped sentence written in blood.

Invitation:

Some of you have admired the light... but you haven't stepped into it.

Some of you believe Jesus existed... but you've never trusted what He did.

The hour came. The cross was lifted. The light is still shining.

Today, don't walk away in the shadows. Come to the Light. Believe in the Son.

And let the love that saved you be the light that others see.

Prayer