

John Ch 12:27-30

“Proper Perspective For The Troubled Soul”

Anyone here ever experience troubled times? I had a feeling you might say that, Jesus made it clear when He said, *“In the world you will have tribulation;”* John 16:33 The Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul said, *“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”* Acts 14:22 and Again *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”* 2 Tim 3:12 Tough, turbulent, and troubled times visit us all, and you know what? Jesus was no exception, when Jesus walked the face of the earth, troubled times visited Him to.

The writer of Hebrews tells us, *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* Heb 4:15-16. Which is to say that since Jesus was confronted with every aspect of the human nature that you’re confronted with and overcame them all with out so much as a single sin, He’s therefore qualified and equipped to equip you so that you might be an overcomer in the face of tough and turbulent and troubled times as well. That’s why the bible says, *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”* Rom 8:37 We’re not overcomers by the strictest of disciplines and stronger self-will, but through the power of Jesus Christ in our lives. and Jesus gave us an example (even in troubled times) that we should do as He did, and when we’re troubled we do well to follow His example. So then, when He *was* troubled, what did He do? How *did* Jesus deal with troubled times when they were upon Him? Well, we’re going to consider that, (at least in part) today.

We slide into the scene here in the middle of ch 12 where by these Greeks have approached Philip and Andrew with the desire to see Jesus. You recall that there in vs 19 was another picture of Israel rejecting Him as represented in their religious leaders, followed by the Gentiles desire to accept, or begin receiving Him as represented in these Greeks. and So the segue is set in motion whereby the church age is beginning to dawn on the horizon. and It *seems* as though Jesus sees the approach of these Gentiles, with their desire to see Him as sort of His confirming cue that the hour of the cross is officially upon Him. Israel has closed their eyes to Him, but the Gentiles want to *see* Him, and are open *to* Him, have a desire to *know* Him.

So Jesus understanding that this transition into the age of grace, has to be made through the cross, begins to speak about just that. Because there is no other way whereby those who truly want to see Him, and get to know Him, can. We *see* Jesus, have access *to* Jesus, and become intimately acquainted *with* Jesus through His work upon the cross, apart from the cross He’s like a grain of wheat that abides alone, no one can enter into true oneness with Jesus, or get a grip on what He’s really all about. Because He’s holy, we’re sinful, so there can be no true relationship there, no koinonia, we have nothing in common, we’re separated from Him in our sin.

Yet if He goes to the cross, the shedding of His blood will make payment for our sin, we can be robbed in His righteousness by faith in Him and the work that He's accomplished on our behalf. Then we can know Him, we can spend time in His presence unencumbered and inhibited by our sin, we can be washed clean, and see Him in truth, cultivate a relationship with Him of intimacy. and So Jesus is all about laying down His life, that we might have life, that we might have that opportunity to come to know Him. and He's sharing all these things in response to the Greeks desire to see Him, letting them in on how it is that they'll truly be able to do that, and it's through the cross. and He gives the promise there in vs 26 (read).

So He attaches this wonderful promise to the sacrifice one would make in serving Him. How that Jesus has laid down His life for our sake, and now if we'll lay down our lives for His sake (oh not literally so much, nor in an atoning way obviously) but if we'll set our priorities aside, die to self, and serve His agenda instead of ours, we'll keep our lives for eternal life and receive the honor of the Father.

But vs 27 brings into view for us the reality of how hard the actuality of the cross was pressing down upon the Lord. Remember we're approximately 4 days out from the cross at this point, and as Jesus begins to talk about it's inevitability, and the fact of its inescapable reality (if there's to be access granted to the Father for man) His humanity begins to shine through here, notice.

Vs27-28

So Jesus, contemplating, and sort of meditating on the brutal, and darkened realities of the cross, becomes transparent here for a moment. and I'm so glad that He chose to let us in on the realities of the struggles of His humanity. Because we can learn so much on how to handle troubled times in *our* lives, if we'll but glean from how He handled troubled times in *His* life. and This is what we have here; proper perspective for the troubled soul. and This word "troubled" here speaks of agitation, or a rolling and stirring up of waters, and I'm sure you can all relate to what it feels like to have your soul troubled like rolling waters, just seemingly unstable, or uncertain, stressed out and unsure, various emotions are just churning in there.

Jesus says here, "My soul is troubled, and what shall I say?" Now we need to notice that He didn't say, "What shall I *do*?" He knew what He had to do, He'd already resolved Himself to the fate of the cross, but what shall I *say*? Something else we need to notice is that He didn't say, "To whom shall I turn? Who can I talk to about this? Who could possibly understand, where could I ever find solace for My troubled soul?" No, He knew right where to turn, and Who to turn to, the Father. So practical application #1, when troubled times visit me, there should be no hesitation, straight to the Father I go, I immediately turn *to* Him, and begin to pour out my heart *before* Him, that's what Jesus did.

As Peter said, "...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 Paul said it like this, "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with*

thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:6-7 and That’s ultimately what we see the Lord doing here, bringing His cares, that which would otherwise be anxiety to Him, to the Father and coming to that place of contentment in His will regardless of what that might be. and Of course we could bring into the equation all kinds of examples of people in scripture who were troubled, and having turned to the Lord were strengthened, or carried through, but I think the point stands well enough, it’s the assumed in the text. As soon as troubled times visited Jesus, He immediately began to pray about it, He took it before the Father, there was just never a question regarding that point.

I will give you one example though, you recall there in the book of Acts when Peter and John were arrested for preaching the gospel, and they were threatened, and intimidated by the chief priests and those in authority, (they had seen the way they treated Jesus, and now they’re beginning to come down on them.) They were “troubled” to say the least over the deal, and you recall that after they were further threatened and released we read where they began to pray. and They said, “*Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.*” And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:29-31 So they were troubled by life’s circumstances, they turned to the Lord and were strengthened by the Lord.

So the question wasn’t *who* to turn to, we turn to our Heavenly Father, the question that Jesus brings up for us to learn from is *how* do I turn to Him. It’s not *who* I turn to, it’s *how* do I turn to Him?

So #1 when the Lord allows something that troubles us into our lives, we don’t need to be super Christian, and try and cope with it on our own, we’re to turn to the Father, give it over to the Father, and pour it out before the Father. That’s *Who* I turn to, Jesus didn’t seek out a local psychiatrist and then when that didn’t work He went to the Father. No, He took it to the Father 1st, now should the Father lead Him in a practical way to another measure, then so be it, but we’re seeing Him take this issue of His troubled soul to the Father 1st.

Now the question comes up then, once I’ve resolved to turn Him, *how* do I turn to Him? Jesus addresses the natural inclination that we all have 1st, when I *turn* to the Father, what should I *say* to the Father, save Me from this hour? That’s our 1st reaction isn’t it? “God get me out of this mess! Deliver me from this trial, this tribulation, this trouble!” But Jesus puts the brakes on that rationale, look at what He says, “But for this purpose I came to this hour.”

Translation, God has ordained the details of my life, and I either believe that God is in control or I don’t. and If I resolve to the fact that God is in control, I’ve given Him the reigns of my life, and He has seen fit to allow a certain situation to come into my life, then I have to

believe that there's purpose for which I've come to this particular hour, or season, or time in my life. and So we're seeing here that we need to determine that if it is in fact His will for me to endure this particular thing, or event, that I'm purposed to stick it out to the end of whatever reason He's ordained it. That's what Jesus did, the cross was ordained for Jesus Christ and so He's not seeking to circumvent it here. Now we don't always have the privileged insight as to why this hour has come upon us like Jesus did.

Jesus was very aware of why that hour had come upon Him, it was for the redemption of mankind, you're not always going to know God's purpose for a particular hour, or time in your life, but that's ok we're to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. and Just by faith we let the Lord have His way in our lives, now is it ok to see if it's possible for God to accomplish His plans another way? You bet, Jesus will do that later, but if not, Father, your will be done. and So having established that when troubled times visit us we're going to turn to the Father, and once we've resolved to give ourselves over to His will, His way in our lives, that He has a purpose in bringing us to that hour, now we have a choice as to what will be our demeanor, or our temperament in the midst of the accomplishing of His will, or that purpose in our lives. (and This still fits basically in the category of how we turn to Him.) We can turn to Him self-centeredly in saying, "Father, save me from this hour!" and In doing so seek to circumvent completely His plan for us in this time of trouble, or we can determine to give Him His way, now once we've opted to do that (that is give Him His way) what's our attitude going to be in the midst of it?

We can mumble and grumble, or be all sad and solemn, being in essence counter productive to that which God is seeking to produce in us, kicking as it were against the goads (and I'm not saying that it's wrong to experience normal human emotion in a situation, but there comes a point when we have to determine how we're going to perceive this, and walk *in* this.) Jesus confessed the trouble, or churning of His soul that He was experiencing, but we're wanting to glean here how we can deal with that in a manner that's Christ like.

When Jesus was brought to this point of utter inner turmoil, what did He do? Did He start shuffling His feet, and kicking dirt, saying, "What have I done to deserve this, God don't you love Me?" No, He said, God has a purpose in bringing Me to this Hour, it's for this purpose that I've *come* to this hour, "*Father, glorify Your name.*" John 12:28 and You guys, I thought about this and thought about this, and I just don't think I can exposit this in a manner that comes anywhere near its justice. If I could only impact you with the importance, and the weight, and the significance, and the key to life that this vs, this statement holds with in it, this vs just drips with humility and whole hearted submission to God in any way shape or form. and This is the perspective, this is the one thing that if I could, I'd have you all take to heart, and take home, and consider it, think about it, muse through it, and prayerfully consider how it applies to you.

Jesus no sooner places Himself in the equation for the sake of illustration than He removes Himself for the sake of application. In other words, Jesus is saying here, "I could make a personal request, but it's not about Me, it's not about How I look, or feel, or see things, or anything else, it's not about how I'm perceived in this, Father it's about you, and if You've seen

fit to allow this into my life, then be glorified in my life through this happening,” whatever it may be. We’re too often concerned about ourselves, and so far from seeking to die to self, we’re all about living for self, and so, “Father, I’m not really too concerned about *Your* name, but I’m really concerned about *my* name, *my* life, my reputation, and what’s happening to *me* here.” But Jesus didn’t say, “Glorify *My* name,” He said, “Glorify *Thy* name,” and you guys that’s what it’s all about, God being glorified in your life whatever that may entail for you, or for me. and “*Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.*” Job 13:15

That was basically the motto of Jesus’ life, and may it be yours as well, and mine as well, Lord if You’ve seen fit to send me *through* this, then may You be glorified *in* this. and May God help us just to take that humble disposition before Him, willfully bowing in submission to His will. That mentality that says, “...*according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*” Phil 1:20-21 “Father, glorify Your name.” This is the proper perspective for the troubled soul, not “Woe is me,” or “Poor me,” or “What about me,” or “God do You even love me?” But rather understanding that God has a purpose for every detail that enters into my life, and “Lord if this be Your will, strengthen me in it, and be glorified through it. I don’t have to be comfortable Lord, but make me conformable, conform me to *Your* will, into the image of *Your* Son.”

Now you should know that there are those who see in this sort of a prelude to Gethsemane, because the Greek doesn’t punctuate like English does, there’s no question marks. and So the debate is whether the phrase, “Father save Me from this hour” was a question, or a statement. As though Jesus is reasoning out loud and saying, “Father, save Me from this hour,” and then the inner man is warring there saying, “But for this purpose I came to this hour.” and Then the Spirit taking victory over the notions of the flesh in making the resolve, “Father, glorify Your name.” and That’s entirely possible, either way the point remains, the objective of our lives in a time of trouble is to bring glory to God, to allow people to see the hope that lies with in you in even the bleakest of times. Vs 28 goes on, (read)

For those of you who are in to this type of thing, this is the 3rd time the audible voice of God has made utterance concerning the record of Jesus’ earthly ministry. and Interestingly enough each time the Father spoke audibly from Heaven it was in direct relationship to Jesus’ death in some way or another.

1st of all at Jesus’ baptism, which is a picture of what? Death and resurrection, and the Father said, “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” Matt 3:17 2^{ndly} Upon the Mt of Transfiguration when Jesus was transfigured before a few of His disciples and He was there speaking with Moses and Elijah. and Luke Ch 9 tells us that they were speaking about His

decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. and Of course you know that Peter put his foot in his mouth by placing Moses and Elijah on the same basic par as Jesus. and The Father spoke out from Heaven, “*This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!*” Luke 9:35 and Then 3^{rdly} as we’re seeing here as Jesus begins to speak out regarding the cross, and His desire to see the Father glorified in it. and He’s saying, “I have glorified My name both in Your life, and I’ll glorify it again in Your death and resurrection.”

Now for those of us who sometimes struggle with hearing the voice of God, and desire to hear more from God, I suppose the question that we soberly need to consider (I don’t want to over spiritualize this) but the question is are we looking to live for self, or to die to self. Now I want you to understand that we walk by faith, and with out faith it’s impossible to please God, and the primary way God will direct your life is through His written Word, and He’ll never lay an unction or an impression on your heart that is in any way confrontational *to* His word. But I think there’s a real key in dying to self and hearing from God, and I’m not going to take it beyond that, but just something for you to consider.

Vs29

Now it would seem that there was apparently some type of thunder or something sort of interlaced with God’s voice as He spoke, or else it would’ve been obvious. But I think the point here is that “...*the natural man 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 Some people no matter how indisputable the evidence may be, or how you try and speak the word of God to them, it’s all just thunder, a bunch of noise and there’s just no interest. “It’s a bunch of garbledeegook that no one can really make sense of,” they say.

There were others who were on the edge, they knew that in the OT the “Angel of the Lord” would often speak to people, of course they didn’t apparently know that the “Angel of the Lord” of the OT was the pre-incarnate Christ, which is to say God Himself speaking to them, and so they thought perhaps it was an angel. They understood at least as much as there was something supernatural going down. But...

Vs30

Even in this crucial hour of trouble and turmoil the Lord was considering the sake of others. This wasn’t so that I could be strengthened, but I wanted *you* (primarily His disciples) to be strengthened and reassured regarding the plan of God for My life. That they might maintain their faith, firmly fixated upon Jesus. and May you keep your faith firmly fixated upon Jesus, there’s going to be times when your soul is troubled. But may God grant you the proper perspective in that hour, and may you resolve to submit to His will in humility, and say, “Father, it’s not about me being comfortable, but conformable, glorify Your name.”

Perhaps you’re here and you’re at a place where God wants to take that 1st step in your life in conforming you to into the image of His Son, by coming into your heart and into your life for the 1st time. Perhaps you’ve never given your heart to Jesus Christ But it’s for this purpose that you’ve come to *this* hour, Jesus died on the cross for your sin, He took upon

Himself the penalty that you deserve, that I deserve, and if you'll simply open your heart to Him and invite Him to come into your life, and into your heart, though your sins are like scarlet He'll wash you white like snow.