

The New Testament Church
Drawn to Jesus
Pastor Paul Jehle, February 28, 2021

I Why we must lift up Jesus in these times

- A. God's Son – the second member of the Trinity – Colossians 1:15-18
 - 1. He is eternally the Son of God – the “firstborn of all creation”
 - 2. He is equal with God – but a “son” to distinguish his focus
 - 3. His purpose is to be “the visible image of the invisible God”
- B. The God-Man incarnate – both transcendent as well as imminent – John 1:1-14
 - 1. He is fully God and fully man – Son of God and Son of Man
 - 2. He is the bridge, the one who can touch heaven and earth
- C. John 12:32 – *if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself*
- D. John 6:44 – *no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him*

II Why were so many people so quickly drawn to Jesus?

- A. Almost immediately, crowds followed Jesus
 - 1. Matthew 4:23-25 – *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria... Galilee... Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.*
 - 2. There were natural factors allowed by God – “the fullness of time” (Gal. 4:4)
 - a. The Romans – powerful conquerors made the people hunger for liberty
 - b. The Pharisees – religious elite made the people hunger for authenticity
 - c. The gospel of the kingdom – about His reign in us not just tradition and ritual
 - d. Word of mouth – the most powerful – when one is touched, draws more...
- B. Why were people drawn to Jesus?
 - 1. He **revealed the Father** – Matthew 11:27 – *All things have been delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*
 - 2. Jesus had **compassion for people** – Mark 5:19 – *Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.*
 - 3. Jesus reached out to the **lowly, the outcast** - Luke 4:18 – *The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.*
 - 4. Jesus spoke and ministered with **authenticity** – Matthew 7:28-29 – *the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. (the word authority here could be “delegated influence”)*

III How will God use us to be His vehicles to draw people to Jesus in our day?

- A. 2nd Corinthians 4:1-11 – Christ is in us, and He is the light that will shine in darkness
 - 1. Through our trials, tribulations and difficulties, God breaks down our flesh and pride
 - 2. When we are broken, the light of Christ shines through us
- B. The Feast of **Purim** (lots) – the day meant for their destruction, God delivered the Jewish people!
 - 1. The culture **collapses** itself with Vashti which provides an **opportunity** for the Church to enter
 - 2. The presence of Esther (Church) **exposes the plot from within** “for such a time as this”
 - 3. “If I perish, I perish” - **full surrender** - the King now has offered His sceptre for us to enter!
 - 4. The goal is to **see** the **King**, but for the King to be seen through us!
 - 5. The gallows meant for the righteous end up **ambushing** the unrighteous and the evil!
 - 6. Deliverance comes by **equipping believers** to defeat their spiritual enemies where they live!