Lifted Up (John 3:14,15)

Tony Mauck · John 3:14–15

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus said, If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself. John chapter 12, verse 32.
- The Son of Man being lifted up in reference to what would happen in his crucifixion, was for the purpose of drawing men to himself.
- That's what real religion involves, being drawn to the one who was lifted up.

1 The Anatomy of a Complaint

Numbers 21:4–9; 1 Corinthians 10:9

- What are we actually saying in the complaint? And what we are inevitably saying is my circumstances should be better.
- Nor let us try the Lord as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents, nor grumble as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- Major problem. Expecting our circumstances to be perfect, ideal, or as close to the ideal as possible.
- We have such incredibly plush and comfortable circumstances, and yet if the least little thing goes awry, we get totally out of shape.

2 The Anatomy of Salvation: Turning to God in Implicit Trust

- God heals his people when they respond, believing to his provision.
- If they looked in implicit trust that this was going to save them, if they looked at the serpent that was lifted up, they were healed. And that's how salvation works.
- We look to God and the provisions that he has left and trust that they will save.
- He who believes in him will not be disappointed. We look to Jesus in implicit trust. He's the Savior of the world.
- I trust the wisdom of God's provision. I look to it constantly as a pattern for my life.

3 The Anatomy of Service in God's Cause

Psalm 118:22–25; Psalm 127:1

- Once we have been saved by turning to God in implicit trust, that everything that we perform thereafter is a result of what the Lord has done.
- This is the Lord's doings. It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it.
- Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.
- This isn't about my excellence or achieving or what I am capable of doing. This is about what the Lord has done.

- Just as Paul was God's instrument to the Gentiles, we are instruments in his hands.

4 The Anatomy of False Religion

- Hezekiah, in his reforms, has to destroy this symbol that once provided salvation because it had become an object of false worship for the people.
- Something that is once powerful or contains power is corrupted into something that God never intended.
- Those who hold to a form of godliness but deny the power thereof.
- When religion is altered or changed to become something that is not real, that is not consistent with what God has taught.

5 The Anatomy of a Life Well Lived

John 12:32

- The anatomy of a life well lived. And that is a life that is drawn to the Lord.
- That stuff becomes the stuff of life. But if you think about it's really quite empty without the Lord.
- Being drawn to the Lord. It is about living your life to its fullest potential.
- This is about something that transcends the temporary.

THE CHALLENGE

If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to myself. Don't never forget that.

MY NOTES