

EXALT JESUS

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July 6, 2014

Sermon in a sentence: More than anything else, or anyone else, we need to exalt Jesus!

Scriptures: (NKJV) John 3:14; John 12:27-33; (Num 21:4-9); Phil 2:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:14-19; Rev 4:2-11; Rev 5:8-14; Rev 7:9-12

The first presidential inauguration ceremony for President Obama was attended by approximately 1.5 million people from around the world, with the cost of the festivities exceeding \$150MM.¹ This was all to exalt one man – just a man, (albeit a national president) – but just another human being.

To exalt means “to raise on high; lift up; elevate. To raise in rank, character, honor. To glorify or praise; pay honor to.” (Webster’s)

Humanity readily exalts those who excel in wealth, power and ability.

God, on the other hand has only ever exalted ONE! Yes, Enoch, Elijah and Moses had some interesting experiences, but only ONE has been exalted.

This ONE was “highly exalted”, lifted up and glorified, not because of wealth, power and ability, but because of a cross! As the word of God tells us:

¹ <http://www.factcheck.org/2009/01/comparing-inauguration-costs/>, accessed 10/27/2012

Philippians 2:5-11 (NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

It is often brought to our remembrance that the birth of Jesus was an incredible event, but it would have meant nothing for us without His death on our behalf. Therefore, we now also join with the eternal Spirit of God the Father in exalting, glorifying and elevating the work of His Son Jesus Christ.

Let's look at it another way. (And let me highlight for you that this is one of the most important planks in the foundation of apostolic doctrine). Jesus Christ is none other than the eternal God in a human body - the visible, fleshly manifestation of the Almighty God. Emmanuel, God with us, the fullness of the Godhead bodily as Isaiah and Paul taught us. So therefore, when we speak of God exalting Jesus, we're really speaking of God exalting *Himself* and showing us what He really deems to be the most important facet of His character, His purpose and His work. Believe it or not, saving you and me is what exalts God *in His own mind!*

In truth and in fact, God was in Christ, reconciling us to Himself:

2 Cor 5:14-19 NKJV For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

This is why every person and spirit will bow at the name of Jesus. Everyone will bow in exaltation of the saving work of Jesus – Jehovah who Saves!

This was not an easy, glamorous or desirable process. This exaltation, glorification and ‘lifting up’ demanded a cross (John 3:14 (Num. 21:4-9); John 12:27-33.

John 3:14 (NKJV) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

John 12:27-33 (NKJV) "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." 29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." 30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. 31 Now is the judgment of 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

peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Jesus reminded the people that Moses had made a brass serpent during Israel's sojourn in the wilderness of Egypt as a means for the people to be saved from the judgment of God. He raised the serpent high on a pole and all who looked at it were saved from death. Jesus made the point that in a similar fashion, He Himself would be lifted up on a cross, and in so doing would draw all people to Himself. This would be their means of redemption and deliverance from the wages of their sins, which is death (Rom 6:23).

So, today, and every day, we should be engaged in exalting Jesus for the great work He has done in our lives and for His incredible gift of salvation, purchased for us with His own blood. This is a big deal! This demands our full attention and gratitude. This requires an active, focused, reasoned response to our Saviour of thanksgiving, worship and praise.

John did not simply record the fact that Jesus would be lifted up to draw all people to Himself. He also was privileged to see into the future as the angels, elders, heavenly creatures and saints of God gather around His throne in heaven. He even records for us the words of exaltation, glorification and worship from this amazing gathering:

- We acknowledge God's existence:
 - o Revelation 4:8 (NKJV) The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

- **We acknowledge His role as creator:**
 - **Revelation 4:11 (NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."**

- **We acknowledge His role as redeemer:**
 - **Rev. 5:9 (NKJV) And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation**

- **We acknowledge His grace in elevating us to the position of kings and priests:**
 - **Rev. 5:10 (NKJV) And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."**

- **We acknowledge His worthiness to receive our worship:**
 - **Rev. 5: 12 (NKJV) ... "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"**

- **We acknowledge His worthiness to receive our worship forever:**
 - **Rev. 5:13 (NKJV) And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who**

**sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever
and ever!"**

We join together in exalting Jesus today!

Songs:

I Love You Lord / We Exalt Thee

Total Praise

I'm going to lift up the name of Jesus

Lift Him Up, Lift Him Up