

Drawn To Christ

Ponder: How and why are people drawn to Christ?

Scripture: "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32, NKJV).

Jerusalem was all abuzz about Jesus! Would He even show up for Passover, given that the Sanhedrin had issued an arrest warrant on Him? He not only showed up but entered triumphantly into the city to shouts of recognition as the King of Israel! Witnesses spread the news to the out-of-towners how Jesus had raised Lazarus (entombed four days) back to life. Even some God-fearing Gentiles had asked Philip for an audience with Jesus.

That triggered Jesus' thoughts toward His impending death on the cross where He would atone not only for the sins of Jews, but people of every ethnicity. Being "lifted up" referred not to His disciples exalting Him, but to His enemies crucifying Him. Earlier in His ministry He used this same figure of speech to His unbelieving critics: "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He" (John 8:28).

Why are people drawn to the crucified, buried, resurrected, ascended, coronated Christ? Simply because it is He who supplies forgiveness of sin and eternal life! No other founder of any religion can do that. "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

So how are people drawn to Christ? Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44). Does the Father miraculously draw people through a direct operation of the Holy Spirit? Not at all! Let Paul explain: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16). When sinners understand that they can be saved through faith and obedience to the gospel, it motivates them to trust Jesus and obey Him!

Meritorious works cannot justify a sinner. Any proposal to earn salvation rings hollow and unappealing. But we are drawn to the One who atoned for our sins with His own precious blood shed at Calvary.

Hymn: "What Can Wash Away My Sin?"

Prayer: Gracious Father, thank You for drawing us to Jesus through His gospel. May we always trust and obey Him! In His name, Amen.