

## Lifting Jesus Up

**Sunday Morning, September 18, 2016**

Is your desire to share Jesus with others challenged with fear and inadequacy? For most Christians this is true. Sometimes before we can be instrumental in winning people to Christ, we need to draw them to Him. The Bible tells us how we can draw people to Christ.

**(John 12:32)**

And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

This verse tells us that we are to lift Jesus up. If we do this God promises that people will come to Him. In this verse the word "draw" means to "drag" (literally or figuratively). People will be so compelled by the lifting up of Jesus that they will find themselves responding to the Holy Spirit's leading.

The question now is: How do we lift Jesus up?

Before answering that question directly, I would like us to look at a mysterious example of lifting Jesus up in the Old Testament.

**(Numbers 21: 4 – 9)** *Emphasis on Vss. 8 & 9*

4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

6 So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."

9 So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

"Fiery Serpent" – burning, poisonous, fiery colored,  
Flying serpents (Is. 14:29)

The fiery angel = Satan

Looking at the snake lifted up reminded them of their sin. They looked up to God for deliverance from the consequence of their sin. Faith in God is the remedy from this fiery serpent. Our faith in Jesus Christ saves us. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross and bled and died, He defeated sin and Satan.

So we see here in the Old Testament a mysterious foreshadowing of Christ being lifted up with our sin upon the cross to deliver us from the power of sin and death.

So how do we lift Jesus up today?

**(John 13:35)** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Love One Another

Love your brothers & sisters with fond affection.

**(Galatians 6:10)**

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Do good to all. Do good to your brothers and sisters.

**(Romans 12:10)**

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

The World sees Jesus by the love shared amongst Christians.

When we truly love one another in Christ the World will see an unconditional deep love for each other, something world does not understand.

Likewise, the world doesn't understand genuine love for your neighbor or strangers. Look at:

**(Hosea 11:4)**

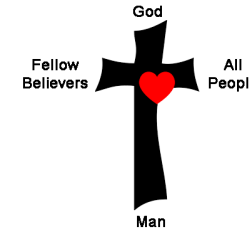
I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them.

**(John 6:44)**

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

When we as a community of Christians, and as local congregations show God's love to each other and all people, we lift Jesus up!

When we organize to minister to each other and those in the world around us, out of love, we lift Jesus up!



A genuine love relationship with God, with fellow believers and for all people, will draw people to Christ, because Jesus is lifted up.

So how can we lift Jesus up in a real way in our personal lives or this church or this community?

**For example:** We have someone in this church body who needs a ride to church on Sundays. Are you willing to call that person each week and see if they need a ride on Sunday and then give them that ride?

**For example:** We need volunteers to drive youth to youth events. This next Saturday we need volunteers to drive the kids to John's Incredible Pizza. Can you drive and spend the afternoon in the Pizza parlor while the youth fellowship?

Those are just two simple ways to show love to others just inside this church. What other ways could you show love to others in this church or in this community? \_\_\_\_\_