



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“I WILL DRAW ALL MEN”

John Galbreath
Bible Study Series

Text: John 12:23-32
Date: June 26, 1955

About Westminster's Galbreath Bible Study Series:

This lesson is one taken from a sermon preached by John Galbreath at Westminster Presbyterian Church on June 26, 1955. The painting described in the Sermon hangs outside of the Galbreath chapel.

To complete the lesson, we suggest that you begin by reading the designated Bible passage (John 12:23-32).

Next, review the outline of the sermon. Reflect on the chosen scripture and how you would “fill in” the remainder of the message from the chosen passage.

Then, review the study questions posed about the lesson — whether by yourself or in your small group. You are also encouraged to spend time studying the painting to see what it says to you.

Finally, share your thoughts on the Galbreath Bible Study blog on the Westminster Intranet.

I. Introduction

A. The Artist -- John Shryock

1. A member of our church, a devoted Christian gentleman.
2. Kitty, a deacon.

II. Composition

- A. A real picture -- each object truly exists.
- B. But not a "picture" -- not seen from any one spot.
- C. Intended to portray, not architecture, but an idea.
- D. A portrayal of the scripture, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself."
- E. It permits us to suggest the various meanings that we ourselves see.

III. The Setting is Our Life.

- A. Our home, our community, our work -- the office buildings, a steel mill, a coal tipple, a river barge, an industrial plant, the fields.
- B. Two centers of attention.
 1. Force of line, color, use of detail draw our attention to two focal points the church, and the outstretched hands.

IV. The Hand

A. The right hand.

- 1. Implies Christ Himself behind the scene.**
- 2. The hand of strength**

B. A strong hand.

- 1. That had known labor, that had known the callous of the tool**
- 2. Nothing fragile in those fingers**
- 3. Seized cords**

C. A tender hand

- 1. That had stretched forth to the child.**
- 2. That had blessed those whose hearts were broken with shame**
- 3. That had healed the paralytic, the fearful**
- 4. That had blessed the bread and fed 5000 hungry from a few loaves and fishes, Broke the bread, held the cup**
- 5. A scarred hand -- that took the nails of a cross out of love for us**

D. Reaching down -- lifting up -- never clutching

E. We judge ourselves by this hand -- is it intruding where we wish it would not?

V. The Church

- A. As we dream it will one day become.
- B. The Church -- the hand of Christ in the community, ministering in his name.
 - 1. The church has, on occasion been a clutching, selfish hand, taking to itself -- and having become malignant, has had to be cut off.
- C. If we would be true to the rightful function we must express through the church the hand of Christ.
 - 1. A strong hand -- led by strong, devoted men, women and youth -- a just church, speaking unequivocally for that which is just, honest and right in the life of men.
 - 2. A ministering hand
 - a) *Leading the child*
 - b) *Healing the ill, the sinning*
 - c) *Providing for those in need*
 - 3. Extending its righteousness and uplift into the entire life
- D. With its steeple, as a finger pointing to God, the hand of God reaching down, lifting those who need it.

VI. Our Response

- A. We, too, find in our own hand, the response to the hand of God.
- B. Our hand open, to receive, in humility, the blessing, the task that we may do in His name.

Study Questions -- Part I

Bible Reading: John 12:23-32

John 12:23 says: "Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'"

- The phrase "Son of man" is one that is often used. What does that term mean to you?
- Glorify is a positive term yet what was to come was physically far from glorious. How do you reconcile that difference?

John 12:24 says: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

- What seeds has God planted in you? Have you let them fall on the ground or have you allow them to grow and multiply?

John 12:26 says: "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

- How do you determine if you are serving *and* following?

John 12:27-28 says: "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it and will glorify it again.'"

- Jesus is predicting his death and speaks of his heart being troubled. When you are troubled, what do you say to God?

John 12:29 says: "The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him."

- Some in the crowd said the voice thundered while others said an angel spoke. Have you ever thought about how you would expect to hear God? Would it sound like thunder? Or would it sound like a small voice within you?

John 12:30-32 says: "Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.'"

- Jesus specifically notes that the voice was for the crowd and that he would draw men to him. What impact do you think that voice had on people's acceptance of being drawn to him? Would they have been eager to be drawn to Jesus without the voice? What impact would the voice have had if Jesus hadn't linked it to ultimate salvation?

Study Questions -- Part II

Sermon :

Looking at the painting, do you see what Dr. Galbreath saw? How would you describe the painting?

II.C. How would you draw the idea of all men being lifted up?

After the September 11 attacks, a child was wondering how all of the people killed would get to heaven. The wise parent explained that God would reach down and lift them up. The child then asked "Does God have enough hands?"

How would you have answered that child's questions?

III. A. These are the things depicting our community in 1955. What do you think an artist today would include?

IV. A. Why do you think just one hand has been included?

IV. B. 3. What do you think he meant by seized cords?

IV. C. Why do you think Dr. Galbreath emphasized specific acts of Jesus' hands?

IV. E. Dr. Galbreath asks "We judge ourselves by this hand -- is it intruding where we wish it would not?" Have you ever felt there have been places you wish God wouldn't reach? How do you make all of you accessible to Him?

V. B. What kind of "hand in the community" are you? Is Westminster? What kind of hand should we be?

VI. B. What task can you do in His name today?