

Year C - Exultation of the Cross

John 3:13-17

The Son of Man must be lifted up.



Jesus told Nicodemus:

"No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down
from there.

And the Son of Man must be lifted up, just as that metal snake was lifted
up by Moses in the desert.

Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life.

"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so
that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never die.

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people.

He sent him to save them!"



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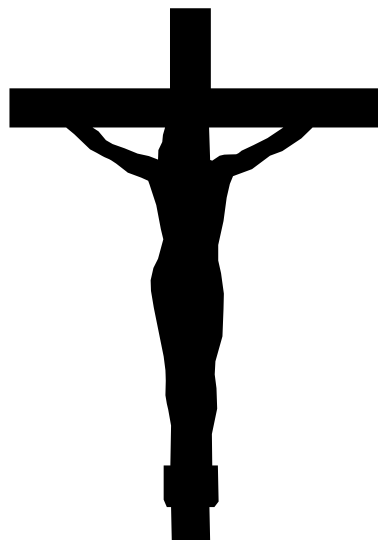


Message

Jesus was talking to a man named Nicodemus, explaining that He came from heaven to show people the way to God.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus of an old story about Moses. A long time ago, the people were sick, and God told Moses to lift up a bronze snake on a pole. If the people looked at it, they were healed! Jesus said that just like that snake was lifted up, He would also be lifted up—but on a cross. This is where the famous scripture comes from: *"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life"* (John 3:16). Jesus is telling us that if we believe in Him, then we get to live forever with God when we go to heaven! This is an amazing gift.

But this gift came at a price. Some people didn't like the messages that Jesus was sharing at the time and so they crucified Him on a cross. But God loves us so much that even though we do bad things, Jesus came to the earth to save us and not punish us. He died for us because of His great love, which is why the symbol of the cross is a reminder of God's love for us.



Discussion questions

- What do you think it means that Jesus came from heaven?
- How do you feel knowing that God loves you so much that He died for you?
- What does it mean to "believe in Jesus"? What do you think that looks like in everyday life?