

John 8:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

Analysis

Jesus prophesies His crucifixion ('when ye have lifted up the Son of man') as the event that will prove His identity and mission. The cross, appearing to be Christ's defeat, will actually vindicate Him. His obedient death and subsequent resurrection will demonstrate He does nothing independently but only what the Father commands. The cross proves Christ's authority.

Historical Context

'Lifted up' has double meaning - physical lifting on the cross and spiritual exaltation through resurrection and ascension. The same event that enemies use to destroy Jesus becomes His glorification.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the cross demonstrate Jesus' identity rather than destroy it?
2. What does it mean that Jesus does only what the Father teaches Him?

3. How can apparent defeat become victory in God's hands?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	αὐτοῖς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Ὅταν	ὑψώσητε	τὸν	
said	then	unto them	G3588	Jesus	When	ye have lifted up	G3588	
G2036	G3767	G846		G2424	G3752	G5312		
υἱὸν	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	τότε	γνώσεσθε	ὅτι	ἐγώ	εἰμι	καὶ
the Son	G3588	of man	Then	shall ye know	that	I	am	he and
G5207		G444	G5119	G1097	G3754	G1473	G1510	G2532
ἀπ'	ἐμαυτοῦ	ποιῶ	οὐδέν	ἀλλὰ	καθὼς	ἐδίδαξέν	με	ὁ
of	myself	that I do	nothing	but	as	hath taught	me	G3588
G575	G1683	G4160	G3762	G235	G2531	G1321	G3165	
πατὴρ	μου,	ταῦτα	λαλῶ					
Father	my	these things	I speak					
G3962	G3450	G5023	G2980					

Additional Cross-References

John 5:19 (References Jesus): Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 5:30 (Parallel theme): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

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

Romans 1:4 (Parallel theme): And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

