

“If It Dies” - John 12:20-33

Ask - “Other than Jesus, who is someone you’ve not met that you’d like to see and speak to?”

Background - Jesus spent the night in Bethany and the next day He rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey. The people of the city came out to welcome Him. The crowds waved palm branches and shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”

“Greeks Seek Jesus” - John 12:20-22

(v20-21) What particular group of people does this passage focus on? Why were they there among the crowd? What did they want and who did they make their request to? Why not ask Jesus directly?

(v22) What did Philip do? Why didn’t he go directly to Jesus with the request? Consider the Lord’s instructions in Matthew 10:5-6.

THERE WERE GREEKS AMONG THE CROWD WHO REQUESTED TO SPEAK WITH JESUS. THEY ASKED PHILIP IF HE MIGHT MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS, AND PHILIP CONSULTED ANDREW BEFORE THE PAIR SPOKE TO JESUS.

“A Grain Must Die” - John 12:23-26

(v23) What was Jesus’ most pressing and imminent concern at this point? In what way would He be glorified?

(v24-25) Explain the metaphor of grain that Jesus teaches in these verses? Why was His death necessary? How does this apply to us as believers?

(v26) The text never states that Jesus actually met with these Greeks. Yet, how does His statement in this verse relate to them and anyone else seeking Him? Compare this with Matthew 16:24-25.

JESUS’ EARTHLY MINISTRY FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE JEWS. THE GOSPEL WOULD BE PROCLAIMED TO THE GENTILES AFTER HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. NEVERTHELESS, JESUS DIED FOR ALL - BOTH JEW AND GREEK.

“Father, Glorify Your Name” - John 12:27-33

(v27) How did Jesus describe His feelings at this moment? Why did He feel this way and what was His emotional struggle?

(v28-29) What was Jesus' resolved declaration? What did this mean (see v23)? How did the Father respond to Him, and how did the people who witnessed this respond?

(v30-31) Compare this with John 11:42. How would Jesus' death address God's judgment of sin and secure victory over the ruler of this world? Discuss.

(v32-33) What did Jesus foretell by this statement? In what manner are all people drawn to Jesus (again, including the Greeks/Gentiles)? Explain.

THOUGH HE STRUGGLED IN HIS HUMANITY, JESUS WAS COMMITTED TO HIS PURPOSE - TO DIE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SINS OF MANKIND. HE KNEW THE CRUCIFIXION WAS NEAR AND WAS PREPARED TO FACE IT.

Application - Jesus' earthly ministry was targeted towards the Jewish people. After they rejected and crucified Him, the disciples carried the gospel to the nations and the Church was born. Nevertheless, Jesus' death and resurrection was for all people - both Jew and Gentile. This was the very reason why He had come, and He faced the horrors of the crucifixion with unyielding courage. What stood out to you in this lesson and why?