

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of October 31, 2021

John 12:20-26

Sermon Series: *Death & Life*

CALENDAR ALERT REGARDING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6:

- **8:00 am-noon**, all are invited (kids too) to a pre-build on the campus west parking lot
- **7:00-9:00pm**, all are invited to a viewing of "Ends of the Earth" in the Worship Center

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

What comes to mind when you hear this statement from Jesus: "The person who loves their life will lose it, while the one who hates their life will keep it for eternal life?"

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Three big movements begin John 12:20-26. **The three big movements are:**

- 1) **Non-Jews are interested in following Jesus**
- 2) **Jesus' hour has come**
- 3) **Jesus' followers are told that they too must lose their lives**

This passage follows a series where Jesus is clearly calling people to believe in Him as Messiah. Read the passage and consider these questions. What are your first impressions from these seven verses?

Jesus is presented with a request that triggers a response from Jesus about what will soon happen. (We don't know if He met with the Greeks.) Jesus gave an overview of His next steps and what that will mean for those who choose to believe and follow.

How would you outline or overview what happens and what Jesus said?

- **Greeks/Non-Jews asked to see Jesus (speak with, perhaps believe or join with Jesus). This is in sharp contrast with the Pharisees in v. 19.**
- **This interest/desire from the Greeks triggers Jesus to speak of His anticipated and now arrived "hour" when He will die / be glorified. This will make it possible for all, including Greeks, to follow Him / be where He is. This is the moment of moments.**
- **Jesus uses a parable to inform them that this must happen in order to produce life for many others.**
- **Jesus taught them that those who would follow Him must die to this life/this world so and thereby have eternal life.**
- **Those who desire to serve [*diakoneo*] Jesus must follow [*akoloutheo*] Him. Those who follow Jesus will not die to procure eternal life for others, but they will practice discipline and dwell with Jesus and be honored by the Father.**

What was the request of the “Greeks (non-Jews)?” What might this mean?

They requested so “see” Jesus. To “see” him might mean that they are interested in expressing belief. I believe that John, the writer, intended for this to be a note of positive interest if not true belief in Jesus.

That the author recorded this made it a significant moment. The Pharisees said, “The world has gone after Him” which was illustrated by these Gentiles who were now desiring to “see Him.”

The author (John) was very specific about the request coming through Andrew and Philip. They too, had Greek names and came from a region with many non-Jews (Bethsaida). How might this fit into the big picture of what is happening? (See also John 1:37-45)

Andrew and Philip were early followers of Jesus and both of them reached out to invite others. They were somehow more approachable by outsiders. Also, because they were from an area that included many non-Jews, they were accustomed to such interaction.

We don’t know if Jesus met with those requesting to “see” Him. However, Jesus does give a reply (v. 23). What is the possible connection between “some Greeks” who “would like to see Jesus” and the “many seeds” of verse 24?

Jesus knew that His death was also for the gentiles (non-Jews). This is the beginning of the movement to take the gospel to the world. Jesus death would multiply far beyond the Jewish nation.

What do we learn about Jesus’ and His purpose/mission in this passage?

- He knew that He was on mission with an “hour” that was coming
- He knew that this was a time when he would be glorified
- He knew that it required Him to bear our sins, be rejected, tortured and killed,
- He knew that this would “bear much fruit”
- He knew that it included Jews and gentiles – all people
- He knew that His goal was to bring us with Him in His kingdom, to be with Him forever

How do you understand Jesus’ statement in verse 25? What is wrong with loving one’s life?

What does it mean to “lose it?”

Jesus knows that to truly believe / follow Him into His kingdom means renouncing our own way to enter (i.e. of providing our own righteousness (see Romans 3:21-28; Ephesians 2:8-9). This will require one to renounce the world (hate it) and instead “serve” and “follow” Him.

Verse 26 changes from a generalized statement about “anyone” to a statement about those who “serve” and “follow” Me. (Note: To “follow” means to answer the call of Jesus with your whole life in obedience.) What are the promises to those who serve and follow?

- We will be with Him
- The Father will honor those who serve/follow.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What did Jesus refer to when He spoke of being “glorified?” How does this fit with the world’s understanding of what it means to be glorified?

His glorification means that the light of the world would be on Him – Through His sacrifice, He would be revealed, honored, and valued. (Glory in the Old Testament (*kavod*) means “weighty, substantial, great in worth).

The world wants cheap false glory. Everyone wants some form of glory (popularity, to be known, admired, worshiped). None of these is true worth.

How are we to understand Jesus’ statement in verse 25? How does this fit with the world’s understanding?

Jesus words are contrary to our normal ‘grab all we can in this world.’ Jesus calls us to put our complete trust in Him for eternal life beginning now.

We talk about and sing songs about ‘following Jesus’ and sometimes call ourselves ‘Christ-followers.’ What do we mean by this? How are Jesus’ promises directly connected with His call to follow? Vs. 25-26. (Refer also to other Scriptures you might know)

To “follow” means to answer the call of Jesus with your whole life in obedience. This is in contrast to our natural self which would be to follow our own desires and the world’s ways. His promises are the result of us loving Him. He is glad to give Himself to those who would desire Him.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Please pray for your adopted global partners
- Please pray for our High School students and our leadership team
- Please pray for our national and local leaders