

### Jesus' Pathway to the Cross (John 12:20-33)

Some Greeks desired to see Jesus - a token of non-Israelite people who would be saved through Jesus' atoning death. This introduces the consummation of Jesus' work (V23).

They'd probably heard about Jesus' miracles e. g: Jesus turned water into wine, dealt with those who had turned the temple into a bureau-de-change, fed 5000+ people with five loaves and 2 fish, gave sight to the blind, and recently raised Lazarus from the dead. Curious about Jesus. He fits the description of a king-in-waiting. They wanted to see Jesus.

People often want something **from** Jesus more than they want Jesus himself. It is easy for us to become consumers of God's gifts rather than participants in a life of walking daily with Christ. Walking with Christ, however, is neither a buffet nor a spectator sport. Real Christianity means participating in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#### The Hour Has Come

In vs 23 Jesus responds with, *'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.'* In the past, Jesus had proclaimed that His time hadn't yet come. Now he states that **the hour has come**. This statement would have implied to the listeners that it was for Jesus, as their long-awaited Messiah, to set up the political earthly kingdom to overthrow their Roman overlords. They were wrong. He was announcing that the hour of His death and resurrection was at hand.

The next words from Jesus, in Vs 24-26 would have left them staggered/disappointed as Jesus began to speak in terms of sacrifice and death. Far from what they expected, but Jesus' death would mark a successful mission for Christ. He explains this in the following verses:

*Vs24-26 Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.*

He is **referring to himself as the grain of wheat that was to die**. He conveys a **kingdom principle- one of sacrifice**. The grain of wheat must surrender its life in order to produce multiples. Involves a death, obviously referring to His imminent death on the cross.

This principle is **applicable to us too-** in v25 He makes it personal to you & me- *whoever holds on to his life in this world, will lose it in eternity*. **What does it mean to hate our lives in this world? We must be so committed to living for Christ that in comparison to living selfishly for myself it looks like hatred**. We now live to serve God lovingly & freely. A contrast to the self-centered attitude that used to characterize our lifestyle before we knew Jesus.

The world says 'Always put yourself first.' Belonging to Jesus means living for Christ and that may include suffering. Christianity is not a crutch or a way to better health

and wealth, though in some instances it could be so. Tough call, but we do not walk this path alone as Jesus is with us.

### **No Other Way (Vv 27-30)** Jesus' tension and His triumph

In vs 27 **Jesus in agony, fights his battle with His human longing to avoid the cross.** But for Jesus, there was no other way. 2 Cor 5:21 says, God made *Him(Jesus) to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God.* God's will was the cross, and Jesus accepted it. Being fully human meant that his humanity did not want to face the cross and its horrors. Being fully God meant facing the punishment for our sins caused revulsion in the sinless Saviour. **He struggled through the tension to triumph as He surrendered to the Father's will.**

### **The Glory of the Father and the Son (v.28-33)**

(v.28). Glorify - to make renown of somebody so that people have a good opinion of Him. *Father, glorify Your name* means, 'I am **ready to put your plan above my comfort.** This is **the purpose of our calling.** God had glorified Jesus by speaking at his baptism (Mark1:9-11) and at His Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-7). By glorifying Jesus on those occasions, God had also glorified His own Name. And now God would glorify His name once again through Jesus' death and resurrection. As God spoke audibly to Jesus, He showed that He cares. He also speaks to us directly, to encourage us.

**V31-33** The cross of Jesus is a **sign of judgement** on the world and also a **sign of Satan's downfall.** **On the cross, Jesus achieved final victory over Satan** (the prince of this world, who rules over the hearts of unbelieving people). Satan tempted Jesus not to go to the cross, but Jesus never yielded. Satan knew that through Jesus' death on the cross, many people would be delivered from his control. When Jesus is lifted up on the cross to die for sins, He is able to draw people into the kingdom of God, thus freeing them from Satan's bondage.

### **Conclusion**

**Jesus has died for your sins and mine on the cross. Have you accepted Him as your Lord and Saviour** so that His death will not be in vain on your account? As a follower of Jesus, **are you striving to know more of His Word, live in obedience to Him and watch in prayer?** We cannot afford to sleep as our enemy is on the prowl. Blessings and great promises await us, but we must cultivate a life of intimate fellowship with Jesus and grow alongside His other children, as we await the return of Jesus.

A girl in Sunday school had read the Beatitudes in Matthew's gospel. She was asked which of the virtues mentioned in the beatitudes, she would most like to have. She said, "A pure heart." When asked why, she said, "If my heart were pure, I believe I would have all the other virtues mentioned in this chapter."

That is God's desire for you and me.