

Text: John 12:20-26

Subject: The Paradox of Dying and Producing Much

INTRODUCTION

1. Passover in Jerusalem drew many people
 - a) Jews
 - b) Gentile God-fearers
 - c) Greek God-fearers
2. Many came for worship and sacrifices at the Temple
 - a) Jerusalem would be buzzing with much activity
 - b) God-fearers like this Greek group would have travelled a long distance

THE REQUEST TO SEE THE LORD JESUS

1. The Greeks asked to see the Lord Jesus
 - a) They had asked Philip

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus” John 12:21
 - b) Philip, in turn, spoke to Andrew
 - c) Philip and Andrew approached the Lord Jesus John 12:22
2. Did the Lord Jesus meet with the Greeks?
 - a) Possibly
 - b) But the focus was not their meeting up
3. Birth and Death
 - a) At the Lord Jesus’ birth

Wise men from the East came Matthew 2
 - b) Near to the end of His life

Men from the West came

4. The Irony

- a) The Lord Jesus was in Jerusalem
 - i) His enemies plotted His death
 - ii) The multitudes did not fully understand Him
- b) People came from far away
 - i) From the East
 - ii) From the West
- c) They desired to see the Lord Jesus
 - i) Not because they seek to be healed
 - ii) But because they wanted to see the Lord Jesus and to learn from Him

IMPORTANT TRUTHS TAUGHT

John 12:23-26

²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honour.

1. A short summary of what it means to truly follow the Lord Jesus

- a) This would be good for the Disciples
- b) This would be good contents to share with the Greeks

2. The Hour

- a) It is a reference to the Death of the Lord Jesus
- b) The Lord Jesus had been geared towards this hour all the time

3. Death

- a) The Lord Jesus saw it as His glorification
- b) He was not afraid of death

4. The meaning of the word “Glorified”

- a) It would bring glory to God
 - i) His plan of salvation would be completed
 - ii) The Lord Jesus would be the Perfect Sacrifice
- b) It would bring glory to the Lord Jesus
 - i) He would have fulfilled all God’s requirements
 - ii) He would become the Author of our eternal salvation
Hebrews 5:9

5. The Paradox of the Grain of Wheat

- a) It is first alive but only to itself
- b) It must then die
- c) Only when it dies it will produce much grain John 12:24

6. The fear of losing one’s life

- a) Many fear to lose their life
- b) Because they love their life
- c) The one who is not afraid to lose his life for the Lord
- d) He will keep it for eternal life John 12:25

7. The challenge of serving the Lord

- a) Truly serving the Lord must see one following the Lord Jesus
- b) In this context, it is the challenge to follow the Lord Jesus to death
- c) If anyone serves the Lord in this way,
This servant would be honoured by God the Father!

CONCLUSION

1. Review our understanding of

- a) Believing
- b) Following
- c) Serving

2. The Significant Example of the Lord Jesus Christ

- a) Believing in God
- b) Following the leading of the Father
- c) Serving the Father's will
- d) Being prepared to die to fulfil God's Plan