

Online Easter 2020 Holy Week of Devotionals

Tuesday, April 7th

The Son Of Man Must Be Lifted Up - John 12:20-36

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Reflection - Dying to See Jesus

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus," they said to Philip. The Bible explain that they were a curious group of Greeks. It does not seem like an unusual request. We often sing the praise song, "*Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.*" It seems like a simple request, but the response of Jesus is radical and probably not what was expected by the disciples or the curious crowd. Jesus explains, "*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.*" Seeing Jesus involves more than just a casual look. To see Jesus, involves serving Him with our whole being. Jesus invites us to be more than "seeing" spectators cheering Him on as we watch Him work. We must become participants with Him in advancing His kingdom. God's word says, "*without holiness no one can see God*" (Hebrews 12:14) Seeing Jesus is about full devotion to Him. Jesus is saying that seeing Him means being willing to die to everything that keeps us from serving Him. So, He explains to their request, "*whoever serves me must follow me*". Ultimately, it means dying to our own self-sufficiency as we give up our life to receive God's life. This way of giving our all begins to clarify our vision. When we see Jesus, we see the new life He has come to give.

As we consider Jesus his last week making His way to His death, we are learning more and more about the way to His life. As we reflect on Him during this Holy Week, may God lead us to "see" Jesus more fully and completely. As the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, does not mean the end of the kernel of wheat. For certain it is not the end, but only the beginning of its transformation into many new seeds. When we surrender to Jesus, it is not the end. It is the

beginning of a whole new life as we follow Jesus. As we come seeking Jesus during this week, lets us look for the answers we may not have come expecting. Let us consider places where our lives are most guarded, insulated, and isolated. Are we ready and willing to turn our back on and die to all the things of this world to follow Christ?

PRAYER

Lord God, as we reflect on your love that calls us to give you our all. Lead us to confess to the things we are holding on to that keep us from "seeing" you. We humble acknowledge that no casual half-hearted approach will do. We want to let go of anything we love more than you. Help us to be willing to lose our lives for your sake and gain the life you long to give. Help us to come to the light (v35-36) so we may truly see you and become sons of your light and bear much fruit. In Jesus Name. Amen.