

John 12b 20-50

20-22 Apparently these were Greeks who had an attraction to the Jewish faith. They had come to Passover to participate as much as a Gentile could. Greeks were like many present day Americans traveling the world and looking for 'truth'. They had heard of Jesus, perhaps of His teaching and miracles, and they wanted an interview. It is interesting to note the detail in which John conveys this story so many years after it happened. The Greeks went to Philip; Philip went to Andrew; and together they went to Jesus. Why the run around? They did not know whether to bother Jesus with Gentile requests. Perhaps the last year of operating so much among the Gentiles convinced them that they should ask Jesus if He wanted to see them.

23 – 25 Let us see this passage from two perspectives. First, consider how strange this sounded to the Jewish ear. The Son of Man brought to the Jewish mind Daniel 7:13. The first part of the chapter is about the beastly kingdoms of men that ruled the world, but then in verse 13 a son of man takes the reigns. He rules forever. The Jews saw this as the restoration of the Davidic throne. They were too weak a nation to think that they could take on Rome without a super hero sent from God. When Jesus said the Son of Man was about to be glorified it must have sent chills down their spines.

But then He followed with talk of sacrifice and death. Why would He respond this way to the Greek inquiry? Jesus knows that the Gospel must go into the entire world. The Gentiles coming to Him was a confirmation that it was time for the next step – death and resurrection and eternal life for all who would believe. Their hunger to hear Him is His signal that the time for the cross has come. Jesus tried to help the disciples understand with the analogy of a seed of grain. He had shared this idea many times. Luke 9:24; Luke 17:33 How contrary to man's perspective of grabbing a hold of as much as you can get for yourself. **Jesus' path to greatness is submission to God, not assertion of self.**

26 Are we willing to follow Jesus into His death, burial and resurrection? That is what the Christian life is all about! **You can't really serve Him without following Him down this road of death to self.** (Matthew 16:24) Consider the difference between Jesus' and the Jews' idea of glorification. What is your idea of glory, death to your enemy or death to your self? To serve Christ: Romans 14:15-18; Galatians 1:10; Colossians 3:22-24 What will the honor of God bring? Matthew 25:21

27 He knows it is time. He doesn't look forward to it, and is tempted to be asked to be spared from it, but His life has been for this very purpose. This is the climax of His incarnation.

28-30 **Jesus' sole desire is that God be glorified in His life.** The voice from heaven encouraged Him with a confirmation that this would all turn out to glorify God's name. The Jews knew that God spoke directly to Moses and Samuel and Elijah, but at this time they thought God only spoke through 'Bath Qol' the daughter

voice, the echo through His word. The voice came so that they would know that God was speaking directly. Jesus already knew that and could hear the voice of His Father in prayer.

In Jesus' ministry we have several times in which God spoke directly from heaven: the beginning of His mission in baptism (Mark 1:11), the transfiguration when He decided to take the route of the cross (Mark 9:7), and now at this final surrender of His will to that of God.

31-33 As the second Adam, Jesus' perfect life had earned the right to take back the rule of the earth. Hebrews 2:14; John 16:7-11 The sins of the world were about to be judged on the cross. Colossians 2:15; 1John 3:8; Revelation 12:9-11 Satan is driven from the hearts of men by the Holy Spirit. He is driven from heaven, cast into the bottomless pit, and finally into the Lake of Fire. It is not that he no longer has influence and power, but that his authority is broken. When Satan bit Jesus' heel, Jesus leaned on it and crushed his head (authority). Genesis 3:15

Lifted up on the cross – the cross has become the symbol for believers to show the world the love of God. It draws ALL men. Not all will accept that love, even though they are drawn. Notice the similar wording in Isaiah 52:13 (NIV).

34 Ezekiel 37:25; Isaiah 9:7 It was true. They just didn't comprehend the path to that eternal reign. It is the same path that we take. To go up, you must go down first like the seed in His illustration. 2Timothy 2:12

35-36 What an amazing opportunity to observe God incarnate. The message of God was perfectly displayed and they had the opportunity to see Him. They would only have this chance a few more days. In the same sense, when the Spirit of God is moving on our hearts we need to respond. The longer we wait, the harder we become. Darkness can symbolize fear and uncertainty, spiritual blindness or ignorance, bondage to the fleshly desires. Unless we follow Jesus, we will continue to stumble in that darkness.

37 –41 see 15:24 He is quoting Isaiah 53:1 and 6:10. Isaiah had a revelation of the incarnation – He saw Him as the suffering servant.

42 –43 Belief without action. Did they have saving faith? They had an addiction to overcome, the praise of man. If you don't understand the power of this vice, ask a singer, actor or politician.

44-46 This is a repeated theme of the NT. We see God in the face of Jesus Christ. He is the exact representation of His being. Hebrews 1:3

47-50 Jesus only speaks what the Father says. He even says it how the Father tells Him to. Sometimes we say the right thing in the wrong way. Those who reject Jesus are, in fact, rejecting God. The truth He expresses so perfectly is God's. see 15:22 We hear the Word. We must decide what we will do with what we hear. If we reject it, that word will judge us one day.