

Life in His Name – Part 30
Seeing Jesus - John 12:20-36
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – Oct.8th, 2023

Intro:

- If you were going to talk about Jesus to someone, what would you say about Him? What would you want them to know about Him? What would you say you love about Him or what He means to you? I think it would be good for us to hear from each other, so I am asking you to finish this sentence: **One thing I love about Jesus is . . .** we are going to have a couple of people with microphones so that we can all hear.
- If you were with us last week, you will remember that we talked about what Jesus claimed about His identity without saying a word as He entered Jerusalem on a young donkey during the Passover festival and what this means for us.
- Our passage last week ended with the observation from the Pharisees that not only did people within the Jewish nation believe that Jesus was the Christ, but also *“the whole world has gone after him!”* (John 12:19). That phrase transitions us to the next passage where we see this happening. Please turn your Bibles to John 12 starting in verse 20, and we pick up the story from there.

John 12:20-22 NIV

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

- So, this question, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus,” sets up our whole section where Jesus answers that request by telling us how He wants to be seen, known, and remembered. By understanding these things about Him, we will know how to explain Him to people, treasure Him greater, and renew our commitment to following and serving Him.
- It has been said that the words “Sir, we would like to see Jesus” should be engraved in every pulpit so the preachers never forget their primary purpose is to show people Jesus. This is the true spiritual longing and greatest need of every heart, and the preacher’s greatest responsibility and sacred privilege is to show people Jesus. And it is good for all of us to remember our greatest need is to see Jesus.
- The good news is that Jesus wants to be “seen,” known and understood by us, and His response to this request shows us Jesus.

John 12:23-24a NIV

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.

See Jesus dying in your place

- Jesus’ greatest characteristic, accomplishment or “glory,” is His love that is demonstrated in taking your place in receiving the just penalty for your sin. You committed the crime; He took the punishment in your place. The crime is severe, and so is the punishment . . . and Jesus, by His perfect, sinless life, is the only one qualified to do so, and He chose to take your place because of His great love . . . and He did so to produce new life in us and through us.

John 12:24b NIV

But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

See Jesus producing new life

- Jesus died as one seed to produce new life and many seeds. He produces new life now and will produce eternal life then. One died in the place for the many so that the many will truly live. You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you cannot count the number of apples in a seed. Jesus died to produce new life in us and through us as we die to ourselves in Him and follow Him on His path.

John 12:25-26 NIV

Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

See Jesus instructing us to follow Him

- If you really love your life, then lose it temporarily to gain it eternally. Through the eyes of faith in the words of Jesus, we see our lives through an eternal lens. So, we die to bear much fruit, we lose our lives to gain it, we hate our lives (in the sense that we die to our old, sinful, self-serving nature) to get our lives. If you love Jesus, you will serve Him, and where He is, you will be – here on earth and for eternity. And the Father who sees all and knows all, will honor the one who serves Jesus. This honor of the Father will be far superior to anything you will and can receive here on earth . . . here is the formula and instructions of Jesus:

The Promises of Jesus

We die	We bear much fruit
We hate our lives in this world	We keep our lives for eternal life
We follow Jesus on the Calvary Road	We join Jesus where He is in glory
We become servants	The Father honors us

John 12:27-28a NIV

“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name!”

See Jesus glorifying the Father

- Jesus’ number one aim and priority is to bring glory to His Father. It is to highlight and reveal who The Father is. Saving us was not the priority; bringing glory to His Father was, and God’s glory is seen in His love for us primarily demonstrated by His Self-sacrifice. The best thing for us is the glory of the Father, and the best thing for us to do is to also glorify the Father in becoming like Him by and through His Spirit in choosing to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and serving the Son. Jesus did not say, “Father, save me from this death,” but “save them through this death.”

John 12:28b-30 NIV

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. 30 Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine.

See Jesus validated by the Father

- Could you imagine being there hearing the words of Jesus and then the voice of the Father thunders through, saying that He has glorified His name in what has been seen in history through Christ and will glorify His name again by the love of Christ on the cross and raising Jesus from the dead.
- God the Father validated the identity, mission, and ministry of the Son by audibly declaring it. And this was done for our benefit, giving further proof of who Jesus is so that we can know beyond a shadow of a doubt who He is and believe, trust, and follow Jesus and receive life in His name.

John 12:31 NIV

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

See Jesus overthrowing the prince of this world

- God’s judgment on the sin of the world is seen in His judgment of Christ in our place. If you want to know God’s judgment on sin, look to the cross. And the prince of this world, the devil, captures and enslaves people through sin, ensnaring them to follow him. Jesus, breaking the power of sin and death, frees the captives to follow Him and, by doing so, overthrows and breaks the power of the devil and transfers us from death to life and has seated us with Him in heavenly places “so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” (See Eph. 2:1-7).

John 12:32-33 NIV

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

See Jesus drawing all people to Himself

- Through taking the penalty of our sin and removing the power of it over us, Jesus draws all people to Himself – making salvation possible for everyone, everywhere – providing forgiveness, salvation, and new life to all that call on Him. All people can come to God through the “gate” of Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life.
- The crowd who was there listening to Jesus understood that “the son of man” would die by crucifixion, but they were confused as to who the “son of man” was – was this Jesus, who they thought was the Messiah, who would remain forever, or was the “son of man” someone else?

John 12:34-36a NIV

The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

35 Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. 36 Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.”

See Jesus *shining the light*

- Jesus tells them that He is the light and that they must walk in Him and believe in Him so that they can become like Him and become children of light. He is the “Son of Man” (See Dan. 7). He is the Messiah, and He will remain forever. But first He must die and then go away so that His work will be completed on earth and heaven before He remakes and reunites them in the light of who He is.
- Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, in our darkness, and if we call on Him, He will make us children of light.

Conclusion

John 12:36b NIV

When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

- If you do not see Him as He is, you will not see Him at all. He is not all the things people make Him out to be. He is not “a god” among gods. He is not merely a “moral teacher” or “great example.” He is the Christ, the Son of God, who died in our place to produce life in us and through us, who instructs us to follow Him, to be with Him to serve Him, and promises that if we do, we will gain eternal life and honor by the Father.
- Jesus is about glorifying the Father by showing the reality of who He is and what He is like. His power is greater than the prince of this world, and He draws all people to Himself by Himself, for Himself and all who see His light and follow Him will be freed from darkness and enter eternal life. This is Jesus; behold Him for who He is, treasure Him above all others, believe in Him with your whole heart, and follow and serve Him with and for your whole life. Commit yourself to Him again or for the first time again.