

Seeking the Saving King

John 12:12-26 ¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.” ²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, “**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.** ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

❖ Recap

❖ Introduction

- **After He Raised Lazarus from the dead**
- **After Mary washes His feet with perfume and tears**
- **Jesus is headed to Jerusalem**
 - **Headed right where they want to kill Him**
 - They are looking for a **way to kill Him...**
 - ◆ And He knows it...
 - ◆ But **they did not want to do it during this week of the Passover...**
 - ◆ they were afraid of the millions of people that came in to Jerusalem.
 - It was all to go according to **the timing of God.**
 - ◆ They want to kill Him... but that is the one time they do not want to do it...
 - But Jesus has plans.
 - **Jesus Death on Passover will be symbolic for the nation of Israel**
 - That on that day when lambs were killed for the sins of the people...
 - **Jesus would be the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world.**
- **Brief Look at His Entry:**
 - **But then I want us to focus in on the Greeks that are coming to see Him**
- **Jesus says something very interesting during this week....**
- **So right here in the week probably on Tuesday, we see the Gentiles seeking out Christ**
 - **And His Death is on Friday....**
 - And that is what we are right?
 - The nation of Israel rejected their Messiah

- And Jesus had already told us **he had sheep that were of a different fold**
- And we know from Hosea **“I will call them My people who were not My people and her beloved who was not beloved.”**
- **And this is us...right?**
 - So I believe this is so **very applicable to us today.**
 - It is as if Jesus wrote these things **just for us!**
- **IMPORTANT – last things**
 - You must **remember these are some of the last things** Jesus spoke before His death...
 - So I believe He is **trying to drive home** a few points for us to consider...

❖ 5 Things about Jesus And 4 Statements About those who follow Him

❖ 1) The Saving King

- ¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”
- **Jesus enters Jerusalem as its King**
 - The Crowd hails Him as king...
 - Hosanna: Means Save Now....
 - They are quoting Psalm 118
 - They call Him the King of Israel
 - They are quoting a prophecy from Zechariah 9:9
- **Jesus comes in on a donkey**
 - A sign of peace
- **And this is just a wonderful scene.... And it should have lasted...**
 - But the people are looking for a different kind of King than what Jesus is.
- **The Saving King that Saves by Dying**
 - He does not deliver them by war....
 - He does not mobilize the army...
 - He is going to deliver them from their real enemy
 - Sin and death.... By Dying....
- **And this will be why so many turn against Him...**
 - Because they wanted one thing, while He was going to provide another...

❖ 2) The World Has Went After Him

- ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”
- **The Miracle brought people out...**
- **The World has gone after Him**
 - And this is true...
 - And this was a glorious time in the life of Jesus...
 - And it is a very small glimpse of what is coming....
- **The World is going after Jesus...**
 - Billions of people will stand before Jesus one day and praise Him...
 - His kingdom is growing even today....
 - Because He came to die!

❖ 3) Some Were Seeking Jesus

- ²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹ So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
- **The Seeking and Who it was is significant**
 - It was the Greeks, or Gentiles
 - And they wanted to see Jesus...
 - But why...
- **The Cleansing of the Temple is truly significant here**
 - The Cleansing of the temple probably occurred right before these people wanted to see Jesus.
 - What you need to know is that there **were many non Jewish people that came up to worship** the one true God.
 - That was God’s purpose for Israel in the first place...
 - It was to be **a light to the nations** wasn’t it...
 - But they failed horribly at it.
 - But there were still,... what were known as **Proselytes**... people that were not Jewish, that believed in Yahweh.- The One True God.
- **The Significance of the Temple cleansing is seen in what part He was cleansing.**
 - It was the **court of the gentiles**.
 - They had a court (Built by Solomon first) made just for them to come and worship
 - They could not go into the other parts of the temple because they were not Jewish...
 - So there was **a place for them to come and worship**...
- **That court had been made a mockery...**
 - They decided they would turn it into a market place, and a place to carry animals through to get where they needed to go.
 - It was supposed to be as Jesus said “Matthew 21:13¹³ He said to them, **“It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer (for the nations),’ but you make it a den of robbers.”**
 - And this upset Jesus Greatly...
 - so He cleans the temple out, and would not even let people carry things through it...
- **So, it is safe to say**
 - These men saw this take place, AND...
 - They wanted to see Jesus...
 - They were **seeking** Him...
 - They wanted to **know about** Him...
- **And judging from the answer that He gave them, they wanted to know how they could be His followers...**
 - Because that is how He answers.
 - So Jesus addresses the crowd that was there... these Greeks, and His disciples, and probably other Jewish people
- **And they, being Gentiles, are significant to us!**

23 And Jesus answered them, **“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.**

❖ 4) Jesus Tells of His Coming Glory

- **One of the central themes of these verses is the glory of God.**
 - And we know from Hebrews **that Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God.**
 - When He says this, He is talking about His coming death...
 - **But they did not get that**

- **Now, they probably get excited when they hear this.**
 - Previous to this, the crowds had followed Him and shouted His name,
 - and wanted to crown Him as their King.
- **So he says it is time for Him to be glorified, and they are probably excited as they hear this...**
- **And even the disciples missed out on this**
 - They did not get it, right up to His crucifixion,
 - and some of them did not get it then, that **He must die...**
- **They wanted Him to set up an earthly kingdom THEN.**
 - But they did not know what they were asking for.
 - No Death... No Atonement for sins
- **They wanted an earthly Kingdom, but Jesus was establishing a Heavenly, Spiritual Kingdom.**

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

❖ 5) Jesus tells of His death

- **One of John's major themes is that Jesus is the Saviour of the world,**
 - He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).
 - "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16).
 - He is the Light of the world (John 8:12).
- **The Parable:**
 - The Death of the seed and the fruit it bears...
 - **The grain of wheat here is a picture of Jesus.**
 - Every basic seed or grain of wheat has a covering on the outside.
 - As long as that covering is on the outside, that grain cannot reproduce. It cannot grow.
 - When that grain is put in the ground, the rot and decay sets into that outer part and as it decays and decomposes,
 - the life that is in the inside springs out and then that seed begins to grow and produce fruit.
 - And that's exactly what Jesus says. As long as My body is alive, the life that is in Me cannot escape.
 - It is when I go into the grave, the death of My body releases the power of life within My person.
 - He is saying... I have to die to make people alive.
 - He had to bear our sin, die our, death to provide our life.
- **As these verses continue past vs 26**
 - Jesus continues to talk about His **coming death**
 - And Him being **lifted up...** as in lifted up on the cross...
 - And this is **hard** on Jesus, He is torn because He knows what is coming.

but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

❖ The 4 Statements of Becoming and Being a Christian.

- **Now we are getting into what he wants us to know about being His follower**
- **These are Paradoxical actually**

- The statements almost seem contrary to each other.
- **These are hard and wonderful sayings...**
 - Hard and wonderful truths
 - Each one with something **difficult** yet something very **Glorious!**
 - And each one gives us certain details on how to live our Christian life

1) **Must Die to Bear Much Fruit**

but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

❖ 1) **Must Die (difficult)**

- **To die... or be slain**
- **Our Death is in Christ...**
 - Let me say... this verse,... this little parable... is in regards to Christ... and His death
 - But **we also know this to be true** for the believer
 - **Matt 10:39** “and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”
- **So What does He mean by this?**
 - I know most of the time we hear this we wonder... what does this really mean?... It is such an abstract concept for many of us...
 - Because we know that even though the Bible says we have died to sin... we still do sin... and we know it...
 - So this confuses us.
 - **Romans 6 teaches us that we have died to sin...**
 - At a person's salvation, **they are placed in Christ.**
 - **Actually united with Him**
 - ◆ This is supernatural, mysterious, but true...
 - What **is true of Christ** is true of us.
 - **So, we also have to live this way... even though it is true of us in our position with Christ...**
 - We must put these things into **practice...**
 - And the true Follower of Jesus... WILL do His best to put these things into practice.
 - **Position and Practice**
 - **Romans 6:11** ¹¹ **So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
- **What Does He mean here...**
 - I think this verse sums it up greatly (TURN HERE WITH ME)
 - **Colossians 3:5-9** ⁵ **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.** ⁶ **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** ⁷ **In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.** ⁸ **But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.** ⁹ **Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices**
 - Sexually immoral things, impurity, Vile Passions... evil desires, covetousness.... Idolatry
 - And more... Anger... and wrath... that lead to Malice and Slander...
 - And He talks about our tongues... Obscene talk.
- **So We are to be about Killing the Sin that is in us...**

❖ 1) **Bear Much Fruit (glorious)**

- **He is the vine we are the branches, apart from Him we can bear no fruit**
 - How and what Kind of fruit do we bear?
 - Making our life count

- **The Fruit We bear...**
 - Love, Joy, Peace...
 - Fruits of converted souls for the Kingdom of God...
 - Telling people about Jesus, and their coming to Know Him... Should be the fruit of Every Christian...
 - Some will bear more than others....
- **But When we allow our life, our old life to die, and Christ's to live in us..**
 - We will see people come to know Him...

2) Must Hate our Life to Keep it for Eternity

25 **Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

❖ 2) **Hate our Life (difficult)**

- **Whoever loves His Life loses it.**
 - Love here means... to treat affectionately or kindly...
- **Whoever hates his life**
 - Hate here means to detest it...
- **Look at this in light of what Jesus said in regards to hating:**
 - Matthew 10:37-39 ³⁷ **Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.** ³⁸ **And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** ³⁹ **Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**
- **What does this mean to us?**
- **Our Life....Our Hopes and Dreams and Aspirations.... Our bodies....**
 - Compared to the love we have for Christ...
 - Our affection toward our own life should seem like hate...
- **We should detest our desire for:**
 - Earthly gain if it gets in the way of our life in Christ
 - Our times of entertainment
 - Or our pleasing our bodies, if it gets in the way of Christ...
- **So many things get in our way**
 - Television
 - Our Homes
 - Our Yards
 - Retirement
 - Our Family
 - Our vehicles
 - Our fishing and hunting trips...
 - Entertainment
 - Worrying about what people may think about us
- **Jesus is saying: By giving up your earthly rights... you gain something far better...**

❖ 2) **Keep it for Eternity (glorious)**

- **Keep – here means to guard, or save, or protect.**
 - Literally it means to **guard from perishing.**
- **By detesting your own will....You are guarding your life for eternity...**
 - And isn't that our Aim
 - **What does it profit a man if He gains the whole world but loses His soul...**
 - We are seeking a heavenly Home... for eternity!

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.

3) Follow Him to be Where He is

❖ 3) Follow Him (Difficult)

- This word means to follow someone so as to accompany that someone...
 - And that is exactly what we do... we go where Jesus is going
- Follow Him where He was going,..... and where He is leading us
 - He was on His way to a cross...
 - The suffering and death
- Our following Him will lead to suffering at times
 - Those who desire to live a godly life in Christ, will be persecuted.
- Many people are told they are to come to Christ for a better, easier life.
 - That is their motivation...
 - But Jesus did not speak like that.
 - To follow Christ means self sacrifice...
 - But... it is worth it!.....so that...

❖ 3) To Be With Him (glorious)

- This is the Greatest News of all.....
- If you have any understanding of the biblical teaching of heaven...
 - this will make your heart almost leap
- What is Heaven Like... Remember
 - Take your time to read Rev 21 and 22 in regards to heaven...
- The Greatest thing about Heaven is who will be there...
 - Jesus
- He says He has gone to prepare a place for us... that where He is, we will be there also.

If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

4) Must Serve to Be Honored

❖ 4) Serve Him

- This actually brings out the idea of waiting tables..
 - A true servant... to be the attendant of Christ
 - To wait upon Christ
 - This may be the hardest one for all of us
- How can we do this?
 - Most of the time, our service towards others is our service toward Him...
 - What does He say? “Matthew 25:34-36 ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’
 - The context here is the followers of Jesus
 - Can we put others before our SELF... can we?

❖ 4) The Father will Honor him

- God will literally Revere and reward that person... Honor that person
 - He will fix a value, a high value on you.

- Luke 12:37 ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

➤ **ILLUSTRATION: In early Greek Times...**

- Soldiers would be honored greatly by the people for their military exploits
- They would be praised, and people would hold them in very high regards
- Today: Our Society tends to honor its Athletes

➤ **We will be honored and rewarded by God...**

- Which is a much greater Honor than any man, or group of men can give to us.
- Just to think that **the God that created me is going to honor me**
- for serving His Son gives me chills.

❖ **Application**

➤ **What are you going to do with this?**

➤ **How is this going to change your everyday life?**

- What must you **die to, Hate,**
- And in what ways must **you follow, and serve** Him...?

➤ **The Death of Christ completely changed the disciples...**

- It should completely change us!
-