

## Death Precedes Life

### John 12:23-28

*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.*

*27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."*

John 12 records 3 events Jesus' last week on earth. Omits many details in Synoptics.

- 6 days before Passover: Mary anoints Jesus' feet with perfume to honor and prepare him for burial
- 5 days before Passover: Triumphal entry: Palm Sunday...Jesus' earthly coronation.
- 4 days before Passover: god-fearing gentiles request to meet with Jesus.
  - Important. transition: Final rejection of Israel to initial reception of Gentiles.
    - Jesus' death would bring glory to Father and produce much life.

Israel's unbelief glorified God and produced much life. John 12:37-41, 20-21

- Rejection of Jesus as Messiah by Israel was both inevitable and necessary.

Inevitable: foretold in Scripture. It had to happen. Isaiah 53:1, 38, 6:10

- Displayed that God is sovereign over all belief/unbelief in ways that exalt His sovereignty and preserve man's accountability.....somehow both true.

Necessary: Israel's rejection was basis for offering Gospel to Gentiles/world.

- Jews must 1<sup>st</sup> reject Jesus so gospel available to Gentiles as Gentiles rather than Gentiles who submit to Judaism. John 1:11-12, Mathewt 10:5-6; Romans 1:16; 11:30-31

Jesus' death glorified Father and produced much life. John 12:23-24, 27-28, 31-34

- "Have glorified" = incarnation, teaching, miracles (Lazareth's resurrection)
- "Will glorify" = Jesus' death (exactly how), resurrection, ascension, 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
  - Jesus' death part of rejection: Messiah die is not = with their views of Messiah.
    - Father's words approval of Jesus saving work. 2x before: baptism/transformation.
- Father glorifies Himself in Jesus' death because there world/sin is judged, Satan defeated, and homecoming of all believers secured.
  - Christians not come into judgment for their sin because happen at the cross.
    - Christian has no unforgiven sin. Jesus' blood covers it all.
- It was time for Jesus, like grain of wheat, to die and bring forth much fruit.
  - Grain remains alone producing nothing unless it dies.
    - This general principle extended to Jesus's followers

- Invitation be like Jesus and die to self and serve others.

John 12:24-26, 42-43

Christ followers glorify Father and produce much life.

- Father glorified by us believing, trusting and hoping in Jesus
    - Jesus is visible expression of Father so believe in Jesus = believe in Father.
  - Not simply believing who Jesus is or what He did but following His example of self-denial, service, holiness.....invitation to die to self like Jesus did.
    - Last week Steve Thompson: Jesus calling us to give up something that's significantly valuable for something even more significantly valuable – Himself.
      - That's what "hates his life in this world" means.
  - Not squander life on own pleasures/purposes but live to make much of God.
    - Be like Jesus and do everything for God's glory...Live to see Jesus glorified!
      - Done only by grace...Great and small daily. Prince Paul/no to sin
- God glorified when we love lost and passionately share Gospel as Jesus did.
- John's record of Jesus's last words in 3-yr public ministry...nothing new.
    - Final appeal to believe in Him and receive eternal life. John 12:44-50, 20:31
    - Written so believe: Jesus light of world, makes God know because He is God and through His death Father glorified and much life is produced.