

**Because Jesus died, He produces many
Seeds for Gods Kingdom.**

Scripture: John 12:20-36

Facilitator: Robert Fleming

I. Introduction

A group of Gentile Godfearers take the trouble to seek Jesus out. The incident occurs during the final days of Jesus' Jerusalem ministry and to round off his public ministry to Israel and at the same time point forward to the gathering of all peoples, Jew and Gentiles under the cross. Philip and Andrew convey the request of the Gentiles to meet with Jesus, Jesus responds with a strange statement, "the hour has come for the Son man to be glorified". Then in a saying about corn and wheat, Jesus points out that both life and death applies to him and his followers. The cross looms large as Jesus calls on the Father to glorify his name. A divine response is followed by Jesus declaration of ultimate victory.

II. The lesson

Because Jesus died, He produces many seeds for Gods Kingdom.

1. **vv. 20-22**. Greeks come to Jesus

Some gentiles approach Philip to see if they can gain an audience with Jesus. The impact of Jesus' ministry is beginning to move beyond his own countrymen, such that a group of Godfearers try to get to speak with him. They obviously feel uneasy about approaching Jesus directly so they tackle one of the disciples. Philip, with a Greek name, may be more approachable, a bit less Jewish. Philip discusses the approach with Andrew, the only other disciple with a Greek name. There is no indication if they get to see Jesus, but they will see him after his crucifixion. When he is lifted up, he will draw both Jew and Gentile to himself.

2. **v. 23**. Time for Jesus to be glorified

The time of Jesus death has arrived. The approach of the Gentiles obviously triggers this response from Jesus. Their approach indicate that his work with Israel is

complete and now he must turn toward the lost and outcast. His ministry is now of the spirit through his disciples and the church, then it is time for him to leave.

3. **v. 24.** Jesus responds to Greeks

Jesus suggests his death and glorification as a seed sown in the ground, dying to produce a rich harvest. How do grains reproduce? Grains are annual plants, this means they have only one growing season. Grasses grow, reach maturity, produce seeds, then die. Grains are harvested from dead, or dry grasses.

4. **vv. 25,26**

If a man loves his life to the point that he doesn't except Jesus as Lord and Savior, then he will lose his life. If you want to honor Jesus and serve Him, you can't have idols or anything to take the place of Jesus. We have to remember John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

5. **vv. 27,28.** The necessity of Jesus' death

In God's plan, the humiliation of the cross is Christ's glorification, a glorification confirmed by the Father. Jesus is disturbed by the shadow of the cross and so he asks, what am I to say? What am I to do in this situation? He answers this question by proposing a prayer. Shall I pray Father save me from this hour? Given that it was for this hour that he lives; He can only pray Father glorify your name. Then a voice came from heaven "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The Father's name has been glorified in Jesus' ministry and will again be glorified on the cross.

6. **vv. 29,30.**

Everybody heard something, some thought they heard thunder, thunder expresses the power of God, others said an angel was speaking to Jesus, but Jesus said that wasn't meant for my benefit, but for your benefit. Jesus knew what was said, but I think it was a sign to them that Jesus was supported by God.

7. **vv. 31-33.** Significance of Christ's glorification

The spirit of this world was judged by the way it treated Jesus at the cross. The cross not only judged the world, it defeated Satan (The prince of this world; evil force in

opposition to Jesus). The defeat of Satan at the cross is God's victory and victory of God's people. Jesus knew that his death on the cross would not only benefit Jews but also Gentiles (non Jews). Jesus said "if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Me." He knew that meant dying on the cross.

8. **v. 34.** Choose between light and darkness

The people drew false notions from the scriptures, because they overlooked the prophecies that spoke of Christ's sufferings and Death. Our Lord warned them that the light would no longer continue with them, and urged them to walk in it before the darkness overtook them. Those who walk in the light must believe in it and follow Christ's directions. But those who have not faith, cannot behold what is set forth in Jesus, being lifted up on the cross, must be strangers to its influence as made known by the holy spirit. They found many excuses not to believe. The people had been taught only the passages from the law, (Old Testament) which spoke of the triumph of the messiah. They were unaware of the passages that spoke of his sufferings (such as Psalms 22 and Isaiah 53). It made them wonder if Jesus was really the Messiah, the son of man.

9. **vv.35,36.**

Jesus assured them that he would only be with them a little while longer. The light of his earthly ministry was about to go out. We must believe on Jesus while the light is there, because it won't last forever. God's spirit will not always strive with man (Genesis 6:3). We must answer his call while it rings to us. If we are the children of God, we are the children of light.

III. Conclusion

Because of what was happening and only a few days from Passover, Jesus knew the hour had come for him to be crucified. He told the parable about the kernel of wheat falling to the ground and multiplying, producing many other seeds. He suggest that he would die on the cross and draw all men unto him,(Jew and Gentile); the disciples and all believers would spread the Gospel. Jesus told them he would be with them for a little while longer to walk in the light before darkness come. Accept Jesus while you have time. Those who believe, are in the light, are children of the light.