

Title: *We Would See Jesus!*

Text: John 12:20-36

( ) Now, beginning with Vs 20, certain Greeks come up to seek Him. And the main thing that we learn here is that the reason they were there is simply to seek Jesus. And that is a good point. It ought to be a model of our life. WE WOULD SEE JESUS.

It is interesting to me the disciples that are mentioned. It is kind of fascinating. They came to Philip. And just a few days later Philip is going to be challenged as to what he believes. And it was to Philip that they came and said, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Philip goes and tells Andrew. Isn't Andrew a wonderful person? You know, Philip could have gone directly to Jesus. And said, "Jesus, there are some Greeks over here. And they want to see you."

But, Philip lacked confidence as to who Jesus really was. We don't know if that is true of Andrew or not. We do know that all the disciples forsook Jesus at the Cross...

But the thing that I like about Andrew is that he knew what to do. These Greeks come and say, "we want to see Jesus." And Philip didn't know what to do. So, he came to Andrew. But Andrew knew. He took those Greeks to Jesus. And how characteristic. Andrew was always bring people to Jesus. What a delightful person he is in the Gospels.

( ) Beginning with Vs 23 there is some very important teaching in this reply that Jesus gave to those Greeks.

(1 ) First of all he predicts his own death in Vs 23 and 24. Two things here.

(1 ) His great intention is clearly stated. And that is that the son of man would be glorified. He would only be glorified if he dies on the cross. Because the glorification of the son of man was not in the way they thought. That is a king in his kingdom. But he would be glorified by dying and substituting his life for the whole world and paying for all sins. The son would really be glorified then. As the all sufficient saviour.

Here is the first pronouncement when Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified." This is it, men. This is the last feast that I am going to be at.

( ) Then he gives them an illustration of the grain of wheat that goes into the ground and dy. Then it will bring forth much fruit.

What a beautiful illustration. Because through Christ's death many have been saved. Much fruit has come through the death of one. And what a neat illustration he gave to them.

(2 ) The second thing that I notice is that right away he tells them what he expects of them. THE PATTERN FOR HIS FOLLOWERS. And you find this in verses 25 and 26. There is some good food here for the christian. Some very challenging things. Let's look at them.

(1 ) First of all, as to priorities. Vd 25..He just announced that he must dy in order to produce fruit. Now, he is going to play on that illustration for all of his disciples. If you are a disciple, if you are a follower of Jesus then watch this play on the illustration.

"He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal."

That has a familiar ring to it. Jesus said that often. Often when he discussed discipleship.

Now, notice, in his case. As a grain of wheat goes into the ground and dies it brings forth fruit. What then is the point for his followers?

In priorities... He who wants to keep his life really will suffer loss, and the one who loses his life, just like Christ did in the service of others, will bear more fruit.

What a beautiful illustration.... Christ literally wants death to self out of his followers, Not physical death, but death to self and self interest so that the Gospel of Christ may blossom.

I don't think there is anything more characteristic of discipleship in the teaching of Jesus than priorities. That we are to die to our own self interest in order to accomplish his ~~prop~~ purposes. That a real servant of Jesus Christ knows what is first on the list. And all other things take second place.

Constantly, he said, "If any man wants to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, daily, and follow me."

When Jesus said, "take up your cross" does he mean bearing "burdens." So many people say, "I am going to bear my cross today." Meaning, I am going to bear a trail or a burden.

I don't believe that is what Jesus meant. When you took up your cross that meant that you were heading out to get killed. They were going to crucify you. Jesus said "if you want to follow me, deny yourself, and as it were symbolically, it is as though you would go out to that hill and be crucified and die, daily.

That was discipleship, according to Jesus.

You know, every time I read about discipleship in the Gospels it bothers me a little bit. Because it appears that Jesus wants a complete commitment on the part of his people.

A commitment that is so strong that nothing else is important except our commitment to him. He went so far as you know to say this: "He who loves anything other than me, as number one, is not worthy of me."

Or let me express it his way. "If you don't hate mother and father, son, daughter, you are not worthy of me. Now, you must admit that that is pretty strong language.

I don't believe Jesus wanted us to go on a crusade of hatred. He was ~~doing~~ <sup>doing</sup> an illustration...a comparison. Our comparison is ~~between~~ <sup>between</sup> all that is in life, including our families, with Jesus. Jesus is the number one priority.

And I think how little we really sense that principle. Maybe that is why we don't bear much fruit. Because he had to die, and we have to die to self, in order to bring forth fruit. Unless we die, take up our cross daily, unless we do that we don't bear much fruit. I think there is a very important illustration here. The pattern of his disciples as a priority. Everything else is to be sacrificed.

(2) Secondly, as to practice, he clearly indicates that the thing that he wants, V26, is to follow him. "If any one serves me, let him follow me."

Take the example of being a soul winner.....a fisher of men. Jesus said to his disciples "Follow me and I will what?" ...I will make you fishers of men. It means that ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> one has the talent himself. No one is born with the talent of winning people to Christ. And no one can excuse himself from not being able to. Because Christ said, "You follow me and I will make you a fisher of men."

What a promise. But following him, again, is a part of this whole issue of dying. The illustration and how it is followed up for his disciples.

I wonder if the reason why we don't experience the fruit, when we try to follow Christ, is because we haven't settled the beginning issue of whether or not I want to keep or I want to lose for Jesus sake. Whether I want to give up in order to accomplish what He wants. OR, I want to keep for myself. Very important issue. Denying yourselves and taking up the cross and following Him. Christ does want us in practice to follow him. What he wants ..where He goes...what he says....

( ) Then I notice there is a wonderful promise here for his followers. The promise really involves two very wonderful things.

(1 ) One is the promise of His presence.. Vs 26.."where I am, there shall my servant also be." Now, I had to read that a couple of times to get the meaning. Because I am accustomed to reading..."Where I am, there is where the Lord is"....Jesus often says, "Low, I am with you always."

But do you see the difference here? He is saying "WHERE I AM, THERE IS WHERE MY SERVANT WILL BE."

WHAT IS THE POINT? If you are a servant of Christ and you are determined to follow him, obviously where ever He is, wherever He is ministering in this world, there you will be. Because a servant has already made his decision, to be a servant to His master. What a beautiful illustration. Wherever Jesus is....there you will find his servant.

Because Jesus is ministering through the life of that servant.

(2 ) The second thing about the promise, ~~here~~ in Vs 26 is almost unbelievable. After you read in John how the Father will honor the Son, Jesus said, "If any man will serve me, the Father will honor him."

The Heavenly Father is going to honor the servant! <sup>regarding - How?</sup> I believe that Jesus taught this principle in the parables. The parables of the pounds...the parables of the talents where Jesus taught that the faithful servant is going to be rewarded, he is going to be honored by God. He is going to be put into positions of prominence.

When the Father honors the son he makes him prominent. When the Father honors the servant of the son he also makes him prominent. And Jesus said that in the end times if we are faithful servants he will make us rulers over many things. THAT IS QUITE A PROMISE.

Tremendous things are being said here. And you can/~~not~~ easily read through it and not capture the importance of what is being said to us as disciples of Christ. So, look carefully at each phrase.

( ) Then we have this wonderful prayer to the Father in Verse 27-30. It is kind of unusually. Because after saying what he just said...<sup>SAYS</sup>~~said~~..."Now my soul has become troubled; and what shall I say,"

Now, we know that Jesus was speaking not for his own sake, but for their sake. That is according to Vs 30. So, he is making a point here for the crowd that is listening to him. Namely, the Greeks and His disciples. And he said, "Father, save me from this hour?" NO! that isn't ~~what~~ what he wanted. Shall I say that? Of course not. Because He came into the world to die.

So, then he makes ~~a~~ the prayer in Vs 28.. "FATHER, GLORIFY THEY NAME."

I couldn't help but be reminded in my own life that there is one issue that God wants out of me always, whether I eat or a drink or whatever I do, and that is to glorify Jesus Christ.

And here Jesus ~~says~~ is saying to the Father, "Father, glorify thy name." That is what He wanted.

It ~~is~~ kind of reminds me of what he prayed in the garden when he said, "NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE."

The issue is, should I be saved from this hour of suffering and dying. Of course not. He came into the world to die. And so he prays.. "Father, the thing that I want is that your name be glorified."

I simple commitment on the part of Jesus into the hands of the Father. I leave it in your hands, Father. I want you to be glorified.

And How precious it was that the Father responded on this occasion, according to the Bible. For a respond came in the form of a voice from heaven, saying.. "I HAVE GLORIFIED IT, AND WILL GLORIFY IT AGAIN."

Now, what is he referring to? "I have glorified it." I believe that is a reference of when Jesus came into the world. The incarnation. Jesus glorified His name when he was born. God manifest in the flesh.

And when he said, "I will glorify it again"...he is referring to His death. His crucifixion and his resurrection.

The father glorified his own name when Jesus came into the world. And, also, when he died on the cross, and when he arose again from the dead.

( ) It was kind of exciting for the people. We read about their reaction to this in Vs 29... "The multitude therefore, who stood by and heard it, were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, An angel has spoken to him."

But Jesus gave the real reason. And that was for them. He said in Vs 30 "This voice has not come for my sake." (I did not need it) "But for your sake."

Now, I want you to think with me just for a moment. WHAT THEN IS THE MEANING OF THAT? If it wasn't for Jesus' sake, but it was for the sake of those who were listening to him, what is the point in the contexts?

I believe the point in the context goes right back to the illustration of the grain of wheat falling into the ground and dying and bring forth fruit, and then we should be slaves and servants to Him.

The point then would be: The servant, as Jesus was a servant, should be willing to glorify the heavenly Father name, even if it means death....

Paul saw that so many times. He prayed, that he might conform to the death....the humbling death of Christ.

And so often we ignore the issue of what Christ wants from his disciples. Death...itself...and death to self-interest. So often we are tested by that. We may have made a commitment. Lord, I will do anything you want me to do. I will go anywhere you want me to go. And I will say anything you want me to say. But, when ever it is tested. And we find ourselves doing something that we don't want to do, that is where the tire hits the road.

Example: Suppose you said to God at some time, "Lord, I will talk to anybody that you want me to talk to."

And then let's suppose that this week you would run into somebody that you just can't stand. I mean...boy, you can't stand this person. Now, you have already made the commitment. "Lord, I will talk to anybody that you want me to talk to. I will be a slave to all."

But, friends, in that moment you face the issue of dying to self. "Lord, you know that every time I talk to that person it just burns me, it upsets me. And I know, Lord, you wouldn't want me to be upset. And so I guess you don't want me to talk."

It doesn't matter what the issue is. Whether it is a person we talk to, or something God wants us to do. We face the issue of this passage ever time. DO YOU WANT THE FATHER'S NAME TO BE GLORIFIED?

Have you decided to die to self so that you might ~~be~~ bear more fruit?  
OR, are you still thinking of selfish interest. "Lord, I don't like talking  
to that person." "Lord, I don't like doing that." "And I don't want to do it

This passage is very important in the life of the believer. Commitment is  
involved at this point. All must be sacrificed for the glory of the Father.

( ) Then, we come to verses 31 through 36. Three things here about the power  
of Christ's death. And then, again, what it means to us as a believer.

(1 ) One, deals with Satan. Vs 31..Now judgment is upon this world; now the  
ruler of this world shall be cast out."

Just a word about the ruler of this world being cast out. People often  
ask as they read this verse: "Pastor, I thought Satan was cast out of heaven  
back between Genesis 1;1 and 1;2?

NO!! The Bible does not say that Satan was cast out between Gen 1:1 and  
Gen 1:2. In fact, you can't get anything between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.  
O.K. what about over in Isaiah chapter 14, or, Ezekiel 28. Isn't that where  
Satan got cast out?

Dear friends, Satan has never been cast out of heaven. DO YOU KNOW WHY?  
Because he has been going ~~up~~ up there accusing you and me. And he does this  
quite often. If he was cast out of heaven and can't go to heaven anymore,  
then something is wrong. Because in the Bible, take the case of Job, he is  
there in heaven accusing Job. He is in the presence of the Lord making fun  
of faithful Job.

NO, you see, when Satan is really cast out in terms of his total defeat  
it happened positional at the cross of Jesus Christ. It happens in reality,  
listen carefully, during the tribulation period. It is recorded in Revelation  
12. There will be a great angelic conflict between Michael and his angels and  
Satan and his angels. And Satan will be cast out completely. And he will never  
have access to the presence of God, again.

But, the victory by way of position was when Jesus died on the cross.  
And this statement in Vs 31 is a fulfillment of Genesis 3:15.

Now, what is Genesis 3:15? Do you remember when we had the ~~cruse~~ <sup>That</sup> of ~~these~~  
temptation on Eve by the Serpent?



And when it came down to the ~~women~~<sup>Serpent</sup> we read.."unto the ~~women~~<sup>Serpent</sup> he said"...  
Let's turn there....Genesis 3:15....and I want you to follow this carefully.  
Genesis 3:15..God is speaking to the Serpent. And he says.."I will put  
enmity ~~to~~ between you(meaning the serpent)and the woman(meaning Eve),and  
between your seed(meaning the seed of Satan) and her seed(the seed of the  
woman): He( meaning the seed of the woman)(a particular seed. the Messiah)  
shall bruise you on the head."

When you bruise the head of a serpent you kill it. "And you(meaning the  
serpent) will bruse him on the heel". The safest place to be bit by a snake  
in on the heel.

Now, this whole event happens at the cross. Because Satan, you see,  
thought he was having ~~the~~ victory over Christ at the crucifixion. He was  
brusing his heel as it were. But as it was brusing his heel, that same heel  
is crushing the head of the serpent and sealing his doom. Satan was offically  
and positionally cast out when Christ died on the cross.

Even in the book of Revelation we read that we have over come him by the  
blood of the Lamb.

Now, come back to John chapter 12. The power of the death of Christ  
seen over Satan, himself.

(2 ) Secondly, he indicated how suffieient his death is. Vs 32 says, "And  
I, if I be lifted up from the earth(that is talking about his crucifixion)  
if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to me."

Now, you may ask the question. Does that mean that all men are going to  
be saved?....Obyviously it doesn't because all men are not saved.

So, what is he saying? The issue here is that the means by which the  
Father will draw all who are going to come unto him is the cross. That not  
one person could possible come to him who is going to come . And the means  
for drawing them is the cross. All must come by means of the cross. Jesus  
said, "I am the way." And in order to be savdd you must believe in the death  
and resurrection of Jesu. The cross is sufficent for all to be saved.

(3 ) Then to the seriousousness of believing this when you have the  
opportunity to believe is stated in Vs 34..

Vs 34.. "The multitude therefore answered him, 'We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can you say, The Son of man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of man?"

Now, really he didn't say that He was going to be lifted up. He said that the son of man in application was going to be lifted up. They got that point. But in Vs 32 I read that he did say it. "I, if I be lifted up will draw all men."

So, what is the point? The point is that they are attacking his position as Messiah. And saying, "You cannot possibly be the Messiah and at the same time say that you as the son of man has got to be lifted up." That is impossible. Who then could be the son of man? It is a very interesting problem. And don't pass over it lightly.

In other words, if you are the Messiah, the chosen one of God, there is no way possible that you as a man could die on a cross and fulfill that. Who then would be the son of man?

Jesus said to them... Isn't it interesting how Jesus answers people? You know, if he stood out in the narthex, he would probably drive you wild. You go up to him and say, "Jesus I have a little question I want to ask you as a result of the sermon today." He would probably drive you crazy because He never really comes out and answers the question directly. Have you ever noticed that? INSTEAD HE GIVES YOU WHAT YOU REALLY NEED.

Vs 35. "Jesus therefore said to them, 'For a little while longer the light is among you. Walk while you have the light, that darkness may not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, in order that you may become sons of light.'"

Now, I believe that Jesus is not only referring to himself, but to "LIGHT". meaning.... "revelation". The revelation about his death. Which they, at this point, say... "Hay! that couldn't be if you are the Messiah."

But the point that Jesus is making... "Hay! you had better respond now to the light that you have been given."

It is quite a statement. In fact, the Bible teaches that all men are without excuse, simply because they don't respond to the light they received.

Romans 1:20 says "from creation, you can learn about the eternity and power of God." That he is powerful. Somebody bigger than you and I had to created this world. Thus, someone had to exist before he made it. You can learn that much.

But, the Bible says that when they knew God, from the revelation of creation, they didn't glorify Him as God. But instead ~~they~~ exchanged that truth into a man made thing. And they began to worship "the thing" instead of the creator.

8 The point of Jesus is something that we all need to see. If you have light....if someone has unveiled the truth to you, you had better believe while you still have the light. That you maybe sons of the light.

Then Vs 36 says that "These things Jesus spoke, and He departed and hid himself from them.'

There is no question about what that indicates. ~~He~~ It is referring to there reaction. HOW DARE HE SAY THAT TO US...So, Jesus just left the crowd.

If you have the opportunity to believe, and you have received light..you had better respond to the light that you have received.

Let's bow for a closing word of prayer