

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for January 1, 2006

"But if it dies..."

John 12:20-26

I believe that the Greeks in John 12:20 who were going up to worship at the feast were God-fearers.

God-fearers were non-Jews who had rejected polytheism in deference to monotheism but were unwilling to become Jewish proselytes.

These Greeks, these God-fearers, wanted to see Jesus, they wanted to meet Him, they wanted to talk with Him, they wanted to benefit from His teaching (John 12:21).

Philip, apparently believing that these Greeks were outsiders, hesitated to respond to their request without first consulting with another disciple (John 12:22).

Philip, after consulting with Andrew, felt that even though they apparently viewed these Greeks as outsiders, they should at least tell Jesus about their request.

This request from these God-fearing Greeks was the trigger for Christ to communicate more specifically to His disciples about His death.

First of all, Jesus told His disciples that His death was imminent (John 12:23).

The "hour" that earlier in the Gospel had not yet come had now arrived according to Jesus in John 12:23 (John 2:4; 7:6,8; 8:20).

The hour that had now arrived was the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Based on John 12:24-26, when Christ told His disciples that His hour to be glorified had come, He was speaking specifically about His death.

Christ's death was glorious because His death was necessary so that others might live (John 12:24).

Because Christ was willing to give Himself up to death on the cross of Calvary, a vast multitude of people, both Jew and Gentile, will become spiritually alive (Romans 5:19).

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The realization that Christ's death on the cross was glorious should compel us along with the heavenly hosts to worship Him (Revelation 5:9-14).

Christ's death will be reflected in the way that His disciples live their lives (John 12:25-26).

Those who have personally benefited from the death of Christ and who see it as glorious will invariably value the life they are enjoying in Christ more than their life in this world (John 12:25).

Those who value the life they are living in Christ more than they value the life they are living in this world will one day be with Christ in glory (John 12:26).

Those who serve Christ and who are seeking to follow Christ can know that they will one day be with Christ in glory because Christ's Father will want to honor them in that way (John 12:26).