

Discussion and Reflection Questions

Lent 5B - 17th of March 2024

Read: John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' ³⁰Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Who do you think the "Greeks" were & what do you think would have brought them to Jerusalem & to Jesus?
2. What is the significance of Andrew & Philip's involvement in this situation (hint - refer to John Chapter 1)
3. What do you think the parable in verse 24 means for Jesus?
4. What do you think the parable in verse 24 means for us?
5. What needs to die in us to bear much fruit? (For personal reflection)
6. What do you think Jesus means by the "love" & "hate" in verse 25 - is it meant to be taken literally?
7. In verse 27 Jesus' soul is troubled. Is it comforting to know that even Jesus experienced a troubled soul? What does Jesus do to "untroubled" his soul? Can we learn from this in any way?
8. Can you imagine the impact of hearing the voice of God on those gathered? How do you hear from God?

Prayer

O God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope: renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.