

COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LOOK TO THE CROSS TO SEE JESUS

John 12:20-36

Some Greeks Seek Jesus

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks.

21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

22 Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

23 And 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.

The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up

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."

29 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine.

30 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

34 So the crowd answered him, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

35 So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.

36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

Introduction: Just like the Greeks who sought Jesus unexpectedly in the passage we are reading, people of today are looking for Jesus and seeking answers to their quest. These Gentiles met the Lord Jesus and found the answers they were looking for. More importantly, Jesus had been waiting for an exact time such this, to reveal himself and used the occasion to point to the cross declaring that, 'the hour has come for the Son to be glorified'.

The Cross revealed that man shall be saved through Jesus alone; that Jesus did everything for man's salvation; and finally revealed God's ultimate expression of love and justice. What was the significance of these Greeks in relation to the people of today? What difference will seeing Jesus make to a person's life? What did the cross reveal about Jesus?

1. The Cross revealed that Man shall be saved through Jesus alone (v.23-25; 26)

- The hour has now come to reveal himself.
- This is the 'hour' of the cross.
- Jesus is 'the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies'.
- Jesus is the savior of all who will come to him.
- There is no salvation outside of Jesus' death at the Cross.

2. The Cross revealed that Jesus did everything for Man's salvation.

- No man can boast of his wisdom and good works. (1 Cor. 1:18-29)
- Righteousness, sanctification and redemption is from God alone. (1 Cor 1:30-31)
- Jesus satisfied God's righteous judgment for man's sin.
- Man will have to repent and believe to qualify for salvation. (Acts 11:18)
- Even repentance and faith are gifts on the basis of God's grace. (Eph. 2:8-9)

3. The Cross revealed God's ultimate expression of perfect love and supreme justice.

- His love is for the Jews and the Gentiles. (the world - John 3:16)
- God's great love was demonstrated through Christ's death. (Romans 5:8)
- God's perfect love given not because man is worthy and in spite of his rebellion.
- Justice was fully served when the requirement of the law was satisfied through Christ's death. (1 John 4:10)
- Jesus in full human nature bore God's wrath. (Hebrews 2:17)

Conclusion: If you want to see Jesus, look to the cross. The cross revealed that Jesus is the only Saviour and apart from him there is no salvation. His work at the cross is complete and did everything for man's salvation. Jesus' death at the Cross is God's ultimate expression of perfect love and supreme justice.

Application: Seeing Jesus revealed through the cross should humble and leads us:

- To love God and worship him more dearly.
- To love others and be moved with compassion to reach the lost who can only be saved by faith in Jesus alone.
- To be transformed so that others will see Jesus through our lives.