

"When I Am Lifted Up From the Earth"

JOHN 12:20-50 · LESSON 15

We have followed Jesus into the great city of Jerusalem. Beginning in **John 12:20**, John tells us:

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some _____. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to _____ Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The _____ has come for the Son of Man to be _____. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and _____, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much _____. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must _____ me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this _____ I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." (12:20-28)

As a voice responded from heaven, some said that it had thundered. Others said that an angel had spoken to Jesus. But Jesus emphasized that the voice had come for the people's sake, not his. Listen carefully to what he said next:

"Now is the _____ of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will _____ all people to myself." He said this to show by what kind of _____ he was going to die. (12:31-33)

John 12:36 tells us that Jesus departed and "hid himself" from them. "Though he had done so many _____ before them, they still did not believe in him" (12:37), and John wants us to understand that this was actually a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Sadly, some of the authorities *did* believe in Jesus, "but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it... for they _____ the glory that comes from _____ more than the glory that comes from _____" (12:42-43). **John 12** concludes with Jesus crying out,

"Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who _____ me. And whoever sees me _____ him who sent me. I have come into the world as _____, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." (12:44-46)

Jesus has given us plenty to discuss and everything we need in order to believe. Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Is there anything we can learn from the fact that some Greeks wanted to see Jesus in [John 12:20-21](#)?

- What did Jesus mean in [12:23](#) when he said, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified”? In your own words, what does it mean to “be glorified”? If people thought about “glorifying” King Herod or Pontius Pilate or the Caesar in Rome, what sort of things would have gone through their minds? Most importantly, how was Jesus a very different sort of King?

- What can we learn from Jesus acknowledging, “Now is my soul troubled” ([12:27](#))?

- “But for this purpose I have come to this hour” ([12:27](#)). That sounds like a really, really important statement. What do we need to see and understand about Jesus and his purpose?

- In [John 12:32](#), Jesus said, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” What did Jesus mean by that? Did it come true? If so, in what way?

- Let’s remind ourselves: why didn’t some of the authorities who *did* actually believe in Jesus confess their belief ([12:42-43](#))? Can we fall into the same trap as the one John is describing in [12:43](#)? If so, in what ways?

- Look back up at [12:36](#). In your own words, what impact does Jesus really want to have on our lives? [John 12:46](#) might also be helpful here...

- Jesus’ words in [12:48](#) are incredibly relevant for us, even today. In what way? What do we need to remember from [John 12](#), carry with us this week, and apply to our lives, for the rest of our lives?