

Men's Breakfast - The Son of Man Will Die?

1. Who or what in life encourages you to be self-centered?
2. When have you set aside your own needs temporarily to meet the needs of other people?
3. Are you more likely to panic in the *big* crises or the *little* ones? Explain.

John 12:20-36 [20] Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. [21] They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." [22] Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

[23] Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. [24] I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. [25] The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. [26] Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

[27] "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. [28] Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." [29] The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

[30] Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. [31] Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. [32] But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." [33] He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

[34] The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

[35] Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. [36] Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

DISCUSSION:

1. What brings Gentiles to Jerusalem during a time of a Jewish feast?

2. What did the group of Greeks ask Philip? (12:20-22)

3. What was so unique about their request that Philip would first filter it through Andrew?

4. What did the coming of the Gentiles prompt Jesus to talk about (12:23-28)?

5. What did Jesus say had come? (12:23)

6. Jesus said several times that "his time had not come" (2:4; 7:6,30). What regarding this request caused him to say that now it has come?

7. Why do you think their coming signaled to Jesus that the hour of His glory had arrived (12:23)?

8. In Jesus' parable (24), who is the kernel of wheat? How is this related to the Gentiles' request?

9. What did Jesus say about a kernel of wheat? (12:24)

What did Jesus say about loving and hating life? (12:25)

10. What is he calling his disciples to do in verses 25—26? What promise do they receive?

11. What did Jesus say about the person who wants to serve Him? (12:26)

12. How did Jesus feel? (12:27)

13. What was Jesus' attitude? (12:27)

14. Why didn't Jesus ask the Father to save Him? (12:27)

15. Why do you think Jesus is troubled? (v 27) In the other gospels Jesus was troubled when? See Matthew on the back.

16. What did Jesus ask the Father to do? (12:28)

17. In verses 27—32, what is about to occur "now"? How does this affect Jesus? Why did the crowd deny the reality of Jesus' future death 32—34)?

18. What was God Responding to when he spoke? What other times in the Gospels did God Speak?

19. How did the crowd react to God's voice? (12:29)

20. What time did Jesus say it was? (12:31)

21. What did Jesus say would happen when He was lifted up? (12:32)

22. What attracts or draws all men? V 32 Is everyone saved?

23. How did the crowd respond to Jesus' words? (12:34)

24. Why did Jesus have to correct the crowd?

25. In what way was Jesus' audience running out of time? (12:35)

26. What did Jesus tell the crowd to do? (12:36)

27. One commentator relates Jesus leaving as possibly mysterious, as a few other times what do you think?

Matthew 26:36-46 (NIV)

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you

will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." 42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

1 Corinthians 15:36 (NIV) 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

God Speaks:

Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV) 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Mark 9:2-7 (NIV) 2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) 7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

REFLECTION:

1. Jesus says that what is true for Him is true for His servant. In what specific ways is 12:24-26 relevant to you?
2. In what ways do you show that you love your life wrongly (12:25)?
3. In what area of your life are you in denial?
4. Where is Jesus calling you to *die* so that you might *live*? What do you tend to hold on to rather than follow Jesus?
5. Do you feel like you are walking in the dark, the light, or in some shadowland right now? Why?
6. How do we love our own lives?
7. How does Jesus want us to hate our lives?
8. When and why is it difficult for you to serve and follow Jesus?
9. What does it mean for us to "walk in the light"?

10. What tempts you to wander in the darkness rather than walk in the light?
11. What example has Jesus set for us to follow?
12. How can a group of people all have the same experience but interpret it differently?

