

We Want to See Jesus (John 12:20-50)

"We're interested, but we have questions. We're eager to know more. Can we see him? What would he require of us if we were to begin to follow him?" That's the idea behind the request found in John 12:21 "we want to see Jesus." It's a request from a group of outsiders in every way. It's also a signal that Jesus' "hour" had finally come; what had required years of preparation and anticipation was here. With emotional intensity, Jesus describes what his "hour" is and the crossroads it brings everyone to. He ends with an appeal that leaves hearts racing.

1. Jesus' hour and the crossroads it brings us to (John 12:20-36)

After hearing about the "Greeks" coming to see him Jesus says, *"The hour has come..."*

For what? *"For the Son of Man to be glorified."* = exalted; honored; magnified. Isaiah 52:13

V24 That small and unimpressive grain of wheat (if it remains outside of the ground) will stay the way it is but if it is planted – it will become something else altogether.

- Jesus is describing what he is about to do for the world.
- He's also describing what is necessary to become one of his followers.

V25 A commitment to Jesus that far exceeds devotion to anyone and everyone else – even to self.

V27 A window into Jesus' prayer life. Deeply troubled but resolved. *"Father, glorify your name!"*

"...when I am lifted up from the earth..." John 3:14-15

VV35-36 *"Walk"* = "live" in the light; that you might become "sons of light" = followers / disciples.

2. Unbelief and its painful consequences (John 12:37-43)

Even after all the signs, miracles, evidence, teaching... *"they STILL did not believe..."*

V38 John quotes Isaiah 53:1. In its context this speaks of the "Suffering Servant."

VV39-40 John quotes Isaiah 6:10. In its context this speaks of a vision of God as the exalted King.

Isaiah's ministry was met with stubborn rejection - and it led to judgment...

The people became like the idols they served – mute, deaf, blind. V40

V41 Jesus *is* the Suffering Servant; Jesus *is* The King of Glory.

Unbelief has incredibly painful consequences attached to it.

3. Jesus' final appeal (John 12:44-50)

An open invitation. One final plea to those listening that day AND to us today.

Jesus is staring darkness and death in the face as he moves towards it. With boldness and resolve; for our good and for the Father's glory he's going to lay down his life. He'll do it so the Greeks who came to him that day - and so the people of St. Pete who come to him this day will be able *see him*.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read John 12:20-26. A group of foreigners approach the disciples asking to "see Jesus". When did you set out to "see Jesus"? Describe the season of life and circumstances that led you to that? What questions were you asking about Jesus? What questions are you asking now?
2. Why do you think this group of "Greeks" coming to Jesus signaled his "hour" had arrived?
3. What is the "hour" that has finally come? How does that connect to Jesus' comments about a grain of wheat being planted and dying in V24?
4. V24 illustrates what Jesus will do for the world. How does it also illustrate what is required of anyone who wants to become one of his followers? How does VV25-26 echo that?
5. Read John 12:27-36. The one who opened blind eyes and raised Lazarus to life was "deeply troubled". Troubled about what? Who is he expressing his distress to? What does that teach us?
6. According to 12:37-41, despite the signs that pointed to his identity and mission, many refused to believe. What happened as a result? How is this a warning to us? How is this fulfillment?
7. Jesus makes one final appeal filled with urgency and passion; fueled by love and desire. What is he inviting anyone / everyone into? What does he say about those who reject him? VV44-50
8. How are you responding to Jesus' appeal?

Give thanks to Jesus for laying down his life; for overthrowing the powers of darkness and making a way for us to come to him. Ask him to deepen our faith in who he is and what he's accomplished.