

Sermon Notes

Self-Denial: Winning by Losing (John 12:20-33)

[20] Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; [21] these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." [22] Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. [23] And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

A. The path to fruitfulness is the path of self-denial.

[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."

B. The path to fulfillment is the path of self-denial.

[25] "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal."

C. The path to favor is the path of self-denial.

[26] "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

[27] "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. [28] Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." [29] So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." [30] Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. [31] Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. [32] And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." [33] But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die."

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

What's the biggest sacrifice you've made? What resulted from that sacrifice?

Going Deeper

1. Please read John 12:20-23. We've entered the final week of Jesus' earthly life. Why do you think the Greeks want to see Jesus? Why do they go to Phillip? What would Jesus' answer to Phillip and Andrew have meant to them at this point? How does Jesus correct their understanding?
2. Please read John 12:24. How does Jesus clarify what He means by, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified?" What is the fruit He is talking about? Why is fruitfulness impossible without self-denial? What did this mean for Jesus? What does this mean for us?

3. Please read John 12:25. How does Matthew 16:24-25 shed light on this verse? Why is fulfillment impossible without self-denial? What did this mean for Jesus? What does this mean for us?
4. Please read John 12:26. What do you learn about serving Jesus from this verse? What does “the Father will honor him” mean to you? What’s the difference between God’s love and God’s favor? (Psalm 5:12, 1 Samuel 2:30) Why is living in God’s favor impossible without self-denial? What did this mean for Jesus? What does this mean for us?
5. Please read John 12:27-33. How did Jesus feel about going to the cross? Why then did He go? What does this teach us about self-denial?

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?