



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

March 17, 2024: 5th Sunday in Lent
Series: Rethinking Devoted Commitment
Theme: Jesus is Totally Committed to Saving Sinners

(John 12:20-33) ²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 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 Very truly I tell you, 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 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their 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 soul 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 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

1. How does the sermon introduction of about Hen and Hog serve to illustrate common misconceptions about Christianity? In what ways might those misconceptions affect our own thoughts about Christianity?
2. Compare John 7:30, 8:20 to John 12:23. What is Jesus' hour? What do these passages tell you about God's plan to save sinners? What assurance does this give you about your own life and God's plans for you?

3. Use Jesus' words in John 12:24 to illustrate what Jesus has accomplished with his death and resurrection.
4. "Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it to eternal life." Give examples of what it means to love and hate one's life. Is it possible to live by these words? Explain.
5. As God, Jesus knew and perfectly agreed with his Father's plan to serve as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Why, then, was his soul "troubled"?
6. How had God glorified his name prior to Tuesday of Holy Week? How would he glorify it again?
7. In what sense is Satan the "prince of this world"? How has Jesus driven him out?
8. We are Jesus' servants always and only by the faith he worked in us. What gospel promises is Jesus committed to keeping (John 12:26-27)?
9. Pick one of the following verses and use it to demonstrate that Jesus' commitment to us is at the heart of the Christian religion? (John 12:24, 27, 31, 32)
10. (Extra Credit!) Up to this point in time, Jesus primarily sought out the "lost sheep of Israel" – his fellow Jews. How does the interest of the Greeks who came to see Jesus, signal the fact that his "hour has come"? (When answer, consider Jesus in John 12:32)