

FOLLOW ME

WEEK 6

HARVEST
BIBLE
CHAPEL

JOHN 12:20-26

Jesus Is Calling Me To Reflect God's Glory

Concerning the glory of God: 1) I can see it in some ways, but not in its entirety. 2) I know about it, but cannot fully grasp it. 3) I can talk about it, but struggle to describe it. The glory of God is truly marvelous, yet beyond my human comprehension. Because of this, everyone responds differently to the glory of God. In John 12:1-6, Mary responds to the glory of God through Christ, by anointing His feet as a form of sacrificial worship. *Mary recognized His glory.* The crowd in verses 12-15 celebrates Jesus as King of Israel. Yet this celebration may have been premature for Christ was not coming to reign right then. The people were still under the Roman Empire. The crowd saw the glory of God in Christ and tried to assert their allegiance to Him instead of Rome. *The crowd tried to use His glory.* The Pharisees, in verse 19, also saw the glory of the Lord in Christ, and they tried to belittle it. *The Pharisees were jealous of His glory.* The Greeks came to find Jesus, verses 20-22, for they wanted to inquire more about Him. *The Greeks were interested in His glory.* How or where do you see the glory of God displayed in your life? What is your reaction to His glory?

Jesus is Calling Me to Reflect God's Glory: Jesus makes it clear in 12:23 that "the hour has come", referring to His death, resurrection, and exaltation (glorification). I personally cannot bring or add anything to God's glory. It is full, perfect, and complete already. However, God does want me to reflect His glory to all nations. As a church we know how we can glorify God as stated in our mission: "Our mission is to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), in the Spirit of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39)." So the question is not "how", but rather am I willing? Read John 12:20-26.

Am I willing to die to my self? Jesus had just informed the Greeks and His disciples that it was time for Him to die. He uses the illustration of a seed falling into the ground, which first needs to die before it can bring about life. Christ's physical death on the cross would bring about spiritual life to those who believe in Him. In the same manner the believers must die, not physically, but to their own self-centeredness. You lose your life so that you can find it in Christ. Believers must make the ongoing commitment to die to themselves daily.

Why do you sometimes struggle to die to yourself daily? Consider Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." What does it mean to die to myself regarding serving God and others? How does dying to my self reflect the glory of God?

Am I willing to live to multiply? In the life of the believer, death brings forth life. When a believer dies physically, they enter into eternal life in heaven. When a believer dies to their self daily, it also brings about life. This result is a bountiful, fruitful harvest – just as dead wheat seed in the ground grows into a new wheat plant producing multiple seeds. As a believer dies to their self daily, they are making the commitment not to build their own earthly kingdom, but Christ's kingdom. In short, they are going to live out the great commission to make disciples. This is spiritual multiplication, developing a growing, healthy, and vibrant church (a whole wheat field).

How did Christ multiply His discipleship? Who in your life are you currently discipling? What visible fruit do you see as a result of the discipleship? If you are not currently discipling someone, who could you and what would that look like? Share an example of someone you disciplined that went on to disciple someone else (multiplication). What would Harvest Bible Chapel and Rochester look like if each of the church's current members committed to disciple one person outside of their family each year, and then that person was also committed to go disciple someone else? How does living to multiply reflect the glory of God?

READING PLAN:

MONDAY

Romans 6:1-14

TUESDAY

Matthew 10:34-42

WEDNESDAY

Luke 9:23-36

THURSDAY

Matthew 16:13-28

FRIDAY

John 15:1-17