

“THE GREEKS ARE COMING!”

John 12:20-26

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

John records only one event between the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and the Last Supper the night before Jesus’ crucifixion; this passage records that one event—The Coming of the Greeks to Christ.

Why is this event so significant, and why do we need to know about it today? Because in this incident we see Jesus’ submission to His ultimate goal for His earthly life—to die for sin and to provide for the salvation of those who are lost—not merely Jewish people, but also Gentile people! Israel in its official leadership has rejected Him; there are many Gentiles who have not had an opportunity until now to hear and meet the Savior who will have the chance to hear about Him and be saved. **This group of Greeks foreshadows that great influx of Gentile converts to Christianity.**

Moreover, Jesus is showing that the nation has currently forfeited its rights and privileges to its Messiah. He will now submit Himself unto death and will thereby prepare Himself for the resultant glorification. He is glorified not only in His resurrection and ascension, but also in the massive numbers of converts who will come to Him and become sons of God by faith.

This is an exciting time—but at first it will not seem like it! For the cross looms forebodingly in front of the Savior and His disciples. The cross and suffering are not pleasant prospects; who would really look forward to them? But they are necessary in order for Jesus to accomplish His mission.

Likewise, the cross and death is necessary for the follower of Jesus to experience in order to have eternal life. Jesus shows us here that:

YOU MUST LOSE YOUR LIFE IN ORDER TO SAVE IT.

Likewise, Jesus must lose His life in order to save other lives!

In this passage we see *three comings* that demonstrate the above proposition: The Greeks are Coming, The Cross is Coming, and The Servant is Coming.

I. THE GREEKS ARE COMING (20-22)

A. To the Feast (20)

B. To Philip (21): “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

C. To Jesus (22)

What “Greeks” are around us who need to be brought to Jesus?

II. THE CROSS IS COMING (23-24)

A. The Hour Has Come—this is the anticipated hour of Jesus’ death by crucifixion.

Such was foreshadowed by the unusual interest shown in Jesus by these Greek visitors.

B. The Son Will Be Glorified.

1. Through His death by crucifixion.
2. Through His resurrection and glorification
3. Through the conversion of many who become the fruit of His death (See Isaiah 53:10-11; Heb. 2:10).

It was necessary for Jesus to die, or else he would abide "alone" (v. 24; but since He died, He bore much fruit.)

C. The Believer Finds Life in Death (25)

1. To "Love" His life is to Lose It. [*Selfish living for one's own pursuits*]
2. To "hate" his life is to keep it unto **eternal life**.

III. THE SERVANT IS COMING (26)

*The one who refuses to love his life and instead hates his life, is the one who serves Christ. **He submits himself unto Jesus' lordship over His life.***

A. He follows Christ

B. God will honor him—his reward will be well worth any sacrifice he makes!

C. He will be Where Christ Is.

1. In this life—even in suffering
2. In the next life—In His presence forever.

CONCLUSION

Are you a follower of Christ; do you serve Him.

IF YOU ARE, DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU DIED—YOU GAVE UP YOUR LIFE THE MOMENT YOU WERE SAVED.

You have no more independence, no more right to decide what you wish to do, how you wish to live. You are to go where He goes, do what He asks, and ultimately find your eternal destiny with Him in Heaven!

If you have not come to that place,

YOU MUST LOSE YOUR LIFE IN ORDER TO SAVE IT!