

IF... ANYONE SERVES ME

John 12:20-50

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, John, Passover, temple, worship, feast, Greeks, Philip, Andrew, the hour, Son of Man, glorified, wheat, falls, dies, bears much fruit, loves his life, loses, hates his life, keeps, eternal life, serves me, follow me, servant, Father, honor, soul troubled, purpose, voice came from heaven, crowd, thundered, angel, judgement, world, ruler of this world, lifted up, draw people to myself, death, law, Christ, light, walk, darkness, sons of light, hid, signs, believe, prophet Isaiah, glory, authorities, Pharisees, confess, God, last day, commandment

Introduction

People have traveled from all over to be part of Passover in Jerusalem. Inside the mass that has gathered for the feast is a group of Greeks who want to see Jesus. However, when Jesus hears about it, it signals that his hour has arrived. The Son of Man will be glorified through his death and resurrection. Jesus is troubled in soul but resolute in his determination. He has humbled himself as a servant, but now he will humble himself even unto death. The light of the world will soon be in the darkness so that we might be children of light. This means that judgment is rendered to those who reject Jesus, but Jesus always gives more grace and cries out again, inviting people to experience light and eternal life by believing in him.

As the curtain draws to a close on his public ministry, Jesus is troubled in soul, but he will obey the Father and fulfill his purpose. Jesus is God's ultimate self-disclosure, and the Word incarnate who speaks and acts in perfect conformity with God's character. He is the one who will cast out the ruler of this world by being lifted up on the cross. He will create a new covenant community through his sacrificial death by drawing people to himself. Jesus declares that IF... ANYONE SERVES ME; they must follow him, which means dying to self and living for his glory. Death leads to life, and service leads to honor. Jesus still cries out, inviting you to his light and the eternal life that only he can give.

Outline

Serving is about helping people see Jesus (v. 21).

Death leads to life and service leads to honor (vv. 25-26).

When you are troubled: look to Jesus, pray to the Father, and seek to glorify God (vv. 27-28).

Jesus suffered in the darkness so you could be a child of light (vv. 30-36).

If you hold your eyes shut long enough, they will stay that way (v. 40).

Seeing Jesus changes everything (v. 41).

The glory war is decided by who and what you love most (v. 43).

Jesus came to save, but the judgment is certain for those who reject him (vv. 44-50).

Application

Are you a disciple who follows and serves Jesus Christ?

Do you understand how much Jesus loves you?

Will you step out of the darkness to receive light and life?

Questions

1. How does the death of Jesus lead to eternal life?
2. Why is serving linked to following Jesus? (Mark 10:45) How does serving change the way we see ourselves and others?
3. Share about a time when you or someone you know glorified God in their suffering.
4. What should a child of light do? (Ephesians 5:8-21)
5. Why do we struggle with the approval of others so much? How can we win the glory war?
6. Explain how Jesus shows us the Father. (Hebrews 1:1-4)
7. How do we continue Jesus' mission to bring light and life to the world?