

We are needy people. We begin life needy... as a baby. We often end life needy... old and infirm. If we think along the way that things are different, we deceive ourselves. Sometimes circumstances show it. Good hardy South Dakotans don't like to think about this. We like to be self-sufficient, don't like being needy. But all of what we need the most we cannot do for ourselves: love, safety, blessing, and heaven most of all.

Jesus came to give you heaven because you cannot get there yourself. Which is why...

The purpose of Jesus when He came into this world was to die on the Cross for you.

Did you know that Jesus is the Son of God who came into this world as a man? He had a reason for doing that. Of course He did. In John 12 we get to that reason.

I. Jesus, “The hour has come.”

John 12:20-26

We find Jesus again in John 12:22 after his anointing in Bethany by Mary.

Now it is after he has entered Jerusalem on a donkey in fulfillment of centuries of prophecy.

People were listening to His teaching and worshipping Him as Messiah.

Some had been witnesses to His resurrection of Lazarus.

The Pharisees were worried that “the world has gone after Him.” (12:19)

And now even the Greeks are asking about Him. They want to see Him. Is He God in the flesh?

And how does Jesus answer all the interest, the opportunity for incredible fame and influence?

Of course, He needs none of that. He's God Himself. He doesn't need to become famous.

What he says in verse 23 is astounding.

“The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified.”

In the face of growing popularity, what could Jesus be talking about?

Well, His statement is not surprising in the Gospel of John. John has been preparing us for this.

At the Wedding in Cana of Galilee Jesus spoke to His mother... **John 2:4**

In John 7, Jesus Has explained that He has come directly from God. **John 7:30**

In John 8, Jesus is confronting the Pharisees. **John 8:19-20**

Clearly there is a moment coming, anticipated by Jesus. Now it has arrived.

This moment has been the goal to which Jesus has been headed His entire life on this earth.

And what sort of moment? What is “this hour” all about?

In the following verses we learn several aspects of this moment, this hour:

1. The Son of Man is about to be glorified. (vs. 23)

For a thing to be glorified means to be shown for all that a thing is.

Lights glorify a statue at night. They show it in all that it is even in the darkness.

For the Son of Man to be glorified means for the Son of Man to be shown in all that He is.

“Son of Man” is Jesus' favorite self-designation. It is a Messianic title, a reference to **Daniel 7:13-14**.

In this vision in Daniel, we see the Son of Man given dominion over everything.

In **John 1:14** we learn that when the Word became flesh, we saw His glory.

What is it that we see when Jesus becomes human that sheds light on the vision we see in Daniel?

2. It is going to involve death... but death like a seed when it dies and grows into a fruit tree. (vs. 24)

God cannot die. At least He cannot die unless He becomes human.

And this was His plan all along. Jesus came to show us the glory of God by dying!

At first glance, this doesn't make sense to us... until it does. Until we see Him die. Why?

Exodus 33:12-34:8 The glory of God is seen when His mercy meets His justice.

This finally and clearly happens at the Cross. This is the hour that Jesus is speaking of.

3. It is going to involve others... who will learn to think of death and life like Jesus does. (vs. 25)

In the great plan of God from eternity past, He has determined to apply His death as payment for sin.

Not sin in the abstract, but to pay for the sins of real people who will see the glory of His grace.

They, like many of you here, will learn to see life as a gift from God, but not a gift to be clung to.

Rather it is a gift to be ultimately given up for something far better, life everlasting.

Because of Jesus' death, you and I can have Jesus' life, forever. If you trust Him.

4. His death will serve as an example to those who follow Him. (vs. 26)

Such that, if you trust Jesus, serve Him, and follow Him... your life will reflect His.

He had suffering and death in this life only to be honored by His Father forever.

Philippians 2:5-11 Jesus wants you to trust Him and follow Him into glory.

II. Jesus, "My soul has become troubled."

John 12:27-33

Now we find that "this hour" is troubling Jesus, even though it is the reason for all He's done so far.

Why? Well, that is an easy question. You hardly need the bible to answer it.

Jesus is troubled because what he's about to do is really hard.

This is the hardest thing that anyone has ever done in the history of the world.

So Jesus prays a little prayer, "Father, glorify Your name."

And God the Father answers Him that moment, because this hour is going to be so hard.

The Father reassures Jesus of His purpose and that Father's working with Him.

The people there are baffled. They think an angel has spoken.

And Jesus tells them all that the whole scene is for them. They are supposed to pay attention.

In the next few verses, Jesus explains the moment, the hour, which is upon Him, and them, all.

vss. 31-33 There is coming an epic spiritual battle.

This will be the point of greatest divine drama since the creation of the world.

Judgment has come upon this world. As soon as Jesus arrived, the ultimate judge is here. Jesus.

Moreover, the world system was and still is being judged by their response to this divine visit.

Mark 12:1-9 Think about it. God sent His Son into His world, to His people, and they killed Him.

It is not going to go well. Judgment is upon this world.

And "the ruler of this world will be cast out." Jesus is going to defeat Satan. How? By dying.

Mark 3:27 Jesus has come into this world to bind Satan and take from him what He thinks is his... people.

So, when Jesus "is lifted up..." everyone there knew that Jesus was speaking of crucifixion. (vs. 33)

"I will draw all men to myself." Jesus is going to take people, once under Satan's dominion...

People who thought that they couldn't be forgiven...

People who were subject to all kinds of deceptions, God doesn't exist, people are good, money...

People who are consumed with arrogance, anger, greed, envy...

People who are enemies of God...

And He is going to free them from sin and the penalty of sin, death, and draw them to Himself.

People are going to go from spiritual deadness to spiritual life when they see Jesus' death on the Cross.

They are going to see the glory of God in Jesus and be saved from all the death and darkness of this world.

Satan will be enraged. This world system and those in it will go nuts.

But there is nothing that they can do because this is Jesus who has dominion over all creation.

When He dies to defeat Satan, sin, death, and rescue us from hell... well, that is the last word.

III. Trust in Jesus while you can.

John 12:34-36

Now, the crowd listening is puzzled, and understandably so.

If Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of Man, Daniel 7, and thus has all authority and eternal dominion...

He can't die. Right? They ask, "Who is this Son of Man?" Quite! That is exactly the right question.

I would ask that question at this point. How can the Savior of the world die? If He's dead, how can He save?

And Jesus doesn't answer their questions. Why not? Probably because they wouldn't believe Him if He did.

You see, the believing must precede the understanding. That's how it works with God.

However, what Jesus does say is important. (vss. 35-36a)

This was their moment to believe. There might not be another for them. You never know.

Here you sit in this sanctuary. You are this morning hearing the truth of the Bible, the light shining in.

Do you know Jesus? Maybe you are still living for yourself, listening to the world.

He has you here right now so that you will trust Him and turn to Him to be saved. This is your moment.

You might not get another one... death... a hard heart... a disaster... you don't know what the future holds.

But today you know this: Jesus has you here and is saying to you, "Come. Trust me. I did what you need."