

# John 12: Surrendered or Self-Serving

## *The Necessity of Surrender - Part 2*

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John 12.20-26

## So You Want to See Jesus?

*Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.*

*Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*

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*Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."*

### ❖ How do we see Jesus?

- ▶ To the inquiry of the Greeks, Jesus responded by saying:

*"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*

- ▶ "glorify" - to reveal, magnify, make praiseworthy

- ▶ What is Jesus saying with his "non-response"?

*"If you want to see me, you will have to go to the cross. If you don't see me in my humiliation, you don't really see me at all."*

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

HEBREWS 2.9

*“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”*

JOHN 12.32

- ❖ Apart from the cross, Jesus cannot truly be seen or understood. Without the cross “elevating” him, people cannot see him—or be saved. He has been seen as an incomparable teacher and astounding healer, but only the cross can and will reveal him as the Savior for the world.

# A Defining Moment

*“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.”*

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*“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”*

LUKE 14.28

- ▶ “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”
  - ▶ “My soul is troubled.”
    - ▶ “Shall I ask the Father to save me from this hour?”
      - ▶ “No! It was for this reason—my death on the cross—that I have come to this hour.”

❖ This is a defining moment for Jesus—when he had to count the cost of going to the cross to die, of being able to draw all people to himself. There have been prior defining moments for Jesus (e.g. the temptations by the devil: *“If you are the Son of God . . . ”*) and there will be yet another at the even closer hour in Gethsemane. But at this moment as he considers the hour and the cost, his soul is troubled.

▶ *tarasso* - to agitate; trouble the mind with fear; to terrify, affect with anxiety

❖ Confronted with the realities of the cost of fulfilling the will of his Father, Jesus emphatically rejected the course of a “secondary will” of the Father—a less costly way, which in reality would be disobedience.

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

# The “Die-to-Multiply” Principle

*“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.”*

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*The servant given one thousand said, “Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money.” The master was furious. “That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.”*

MATTHEW 25.24-27

- ❖ In explanation of his declaration about his hour, Jesus gave this analogy. Death is the essential precondition for a seed to have any worth or significance. “This hour” and “this cup” was the essential precondition for Jesus drawing all people to his atoning work, to the only possible provision of eternal life.

# The “Lose-to-Live” Principle

*“Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”*

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*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.”*

LUKE 14.26

- ❖ Jesus continues to a second principle necessary for him to fulfill the Father’s will and be our provision of salvation: the loss of one’s life to gain life.
  - ▶ “loves” - to be a friend to; to have affection for; to have sentiment or feeling for
    - ▶ “life” (*psuche*) - breath, human (or earthly) life
      - ▶ the “me-oriented” life: my safety, preservation, and significance
- ❖ What part of your life is too costly to give up?

Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “This is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘If you surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down; you and your family will live. But if you will not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians and they will burn it down; you yourself will not escape from them.’ ”

JEREMIAH 38.17-18

# The “Authentication-Affirmation” Principle

*“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”*

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*And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.*

MATTHEW 19.29-30

- ❖ Jesus presents a third principle of discipleship—one that involves authentication and promises eternal affirmation.
- ❖ Two-factor authentication: (1) Whoever serves me, must follow me.  
(2) Where I am, my servant also will be.
- ❖ Surrender, sacrifice, service; these were essential for Jesus to fulfill his calling. It is the same for all true disciples of Jesus. But he assures us: “it will be worth it all!”