

“We Would See Jesus”
John 12:20-26

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Our Bibles:
 - Once Again - To John 12:
 - Where - We Just Finished Looking At:
 - The Triumphal Entry Of Jesus:
 - Into Jerusalem - That Commenced:
 - His Final Week Of Public Ministry:
 - In This World!
2. And - As Jesus Made His Way:
 - Into The City:
 - As Both King & Servant - And:
 - As Both Lion & Lamb:
 - We Discover Three Reactions:
 - To His Coming!
 - First Reaction - Some Were Excited!
 - Even Those Jews Who:
 - Thought That Jesus:
 - Had Come To Rescue Them:
 - From The Rule Of Rome!
 - And So - As He Rode Into Town:
 - By The Thousands - They Waved Their Palm Branches In The Air:
 - Like National Flags - And:
 - Threw Them On The Path Before Him - Along With Their Coats:
 - To Make A Carpet For Their King!
 - All The While:
 - Singing & Shouting:
 - “Hosanna! Blessed Is The King Of Israel That Cometh In The Name Of The Lord!”
(12:13)
 - However - Second Reaction - Some Were Enraged!
 - Even The Pharisees:
 - Who - According To 12:19:
 - “Said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? Behold, the world is gone after him!”
 - And They Knew That:
 - They Had To Put A Stop:
 - To This Frenzy - Before:
 - It Was Too Late!
3. But Then - As We Come To:
 - 12:20 - We Find A Third Reaction:
 - To Jesus' Coming!
 - And That Is - Some Were Encouraged!
 - Even A Group Of Greek / Gentile Men:
 - Who - After Observing Everything That Took Place:
 - Just Wanted To See Jesus For Themselves!
 - And So - Let's Read:
 - 12:20-26 - “And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: / The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. / Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. / And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. / Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. / He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. / If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour!”
4. So - While:
 - The *People Were Right*:

- To Be *Excited* At The Coming Of Jesus:
 - They Were *Wrong* About:
 - The Reason Of His Coming!
- And - While The *Pharisees* Were *Wrong*:
 - To Be *Enraged* At The Coming Of Jesus:
 - They Were *Right* About:
 - The Result Of His Coming!
 - The World *Was* Going After Him!
- But - In Between Both The *People* & The *Pharisees*:
 - We Have A Group Of *Greeks*:
 - Who Seem To Have Been Curious Or Even Confused About His Coming!
 - But - They Were Rightly *Encouraged*:
 - To Seek Jesus - To Find Out More!
 - And So - The First Thing We Find:
 - In These Verses Is - A Desire For:

1. A Meeting With Jesus!

- In 12:20-22!
 - Now - Even Though This Is The Only Place:
 - In The Gospels Where We Find This Reaction:
 - To Jesus Triumphant Entry:
 - It Seems That These God-Fearing Greek Men:
 - Saw An Openness:
 - In Jesus - That Caused Them To:
 - Approach One Of His Disciples With Their Request:
 - 12:21 - "Sir, We Would See Jesus!"
 - It Is Clear That:
 - These Greeks Were:
 - God-Fearing Men - Who Worshiped:
 - The God Of Israel - And:
 - Even Came To Jerusalem For The Jewish Feasts & Holidays!
 - However, Since They Were Not Quite:
 - Full Proselytes:
 - When They Went To The Temple, They Could Only Stay:
 - In The "Court Of The Gentiles!"
 - And So - They Were Restricted From:
 - Full Participation In:
 - The Worship Of The Temple!
 - But - Perhaps They Saw In Jesus:
 - A Way To Participate:
 - More Fully In The Passover:
 - And The Other Jewish Celebrations!
 - After All - When Jesus Finally Made It:
 - To Jerusalem - Mark Tells Us That:
 - "Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves! / And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves!" (Mark 11:15-17)
 - And So - These Greeks:
 - Saw In Jesus An Openness:
 - To Make "His House" A "House Of Prayer" - Even For Them!
 - But - These Greeks Also:
 - Saw An Opportunity:
 - To Jesus - That Caused Them To:
 - Make Their Appeal To Philip!
 - Again - 12:21 - "Sir, We Would See Jesus!"
 - Now - We're Not Entirely Sure:
 - Why These Men:

- When To Philip First:
 - Instead Of Jesus!
- It May Have Been Because:
 - Philip Was From The Same Area:
 - They Were From - Since Bethsaida Was Not Far From:
 - The Gentile Cities Along The Sea Of Galilee!
- But - Through Both:
 - Their Approach & Appeal:
 - We Get A Sense That:
 - They Had Great Reverence & Respect For Both:
 - Jesus And His Disciples!
- But - The One Thing That:
 - They Wanted Most Was:
 - To Have A Meeting With Jesus!
 - To See Him & To Talk With Him:
 - And Especially To:
 - Learn From Him & Have Fellowship With Him!
 - 12:21 - "Sir, We Would See Jesus!"
 - This Was A Longing That:
 - Could Only Come:
 - From The Lord - And:
 - This Was A Longing That:
 - Could Only Be Satisfied:
 - By The Lord!
 - Do You Have This Longing?
 - They *Did* Have This Longing:
 - And So - As We Are Told In:
 - 12:22 - "Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus!"
 - Perhaps Philip Remembered When:
 - Jesus Told Him That He "Was Not Sent But Unto The Lost Sheep Of The House Of Israel!" (Matthew 15:24)
 - And So - Philip Didn't Know What To Do!
 - So - He Went To Andrew - Who Was Also From Bethsaida - And Together:
 - They Went To Jesus With This Request!
 - But - What We Find - Starting In:
 - 12:23 - Is That Jesus Responds:
 - *Not* With A Meeting - But *Instead* With:

2. ***A Message From Jesus!***

- And That Is Why - Once Again:
 - John Tells Us That:
 - "Jesus Answered Them!"
 - Many Times In This Gospel:
 - When Jesus "Answers" Someone:
 - He Gives Them The Answer They Need To Hear - Not Necessary:
 - The Answer They Want To Hear!
 - Obviously - The Greeks:
 - Wanted A *Meeting* With Jesus!
 - But Instead - Jesus Answers Their Request:
 - With A *Message!*
 - But - *This* Message:
 - Would More Than Satisfy Their Desire:
 - To See Jesus!
 - Because - Jesus Would Tell Them:
 - Not *When* They Could Meet & See Him!
 - But *How!*
 - And - The Central Message Jesus Gives:
 - To Philip & Andrew - To Relay To:

- The Greeks - Is This:
 - 12:23 - “The Hour Is Come!”
- Now - All Throughout Jesus’ Ministry:
 - As Recorded By John:
 - We Anticipate The Coming Of:
 - A Significant “Hour” & Event In Jesus’ Life!
 - In 2:4 - After Mary Told Jesus That There Was No More Wine At The Wedding:
 - Jesus Told Her - “Mine Hour Is Not Yet Come!”
 - In 7:30 - After Jesus Proclaimed His Unique Relationship With God The Father, And The Religious Authorities “Sought To Take Him!”
 - John Tells Us - “But No Man Laid Hands On Him, Because His Hour Was Not Yet Come!”
 - And Again - In 8:20 - After Jesus Proclaimed That He Was The “Light Of The World!”
 - Once Again We Are Told That - “No Man Laid Hands On Him; For His Hour Was Not Yet Come!”
 - But Now - In 12:23 - After Hearing This Appeal:
 - Of The Greeks - Jesus Himself Says:
 - “The Hour Is Come!”
 - And - It Would Not Pass - Until Everything Was Accomplished!
 - And So - As Jesus Described:
 - What This “Hour” Was All About:
 - He Was Telling Those Greeks:
 - *How* They Could See & “Meet” Him!
 - Because - *The Way To*:
 - *Meet Jesus Is To Hear*:
 - *The Message Of Jesus!*
 - And Believe & Follow Him!
 - And So - What Jesus Says:
 - To Philip & Andrew - Was Not Meant:
 - For Just Philip & Andrew Alone!
 - It Was Meant For Those Greeks!
 - And - It Was Meant For Us Today!
 - Because - In This Message From Jesus:
 - He Tells Us About:
- The Purpose For His Hour!
 - There In 12:23:
 - “The Hour Is Come, That The Son Of Man Should Be Glorified!”
 - This Was The Purpose:
 - For This Hour:
 - In Jesus’ Life!
 - That He - As The Son Of Man:
 - Should Be Glorified!
 - Now - When Jesus Described Himself:
 - As The “Son Of Man” - He Did So:
 - Because It Pointed Back To The:
 - “Son Of Man” Found In Daniel 7:13-14!
 - And - In Those Verses:
 - God - “The Ancient Of Days” - Is Seen Giving To This “Son Of Man” - “Dominion, And Glory, And A Kingdom, That All People, Nations, And Languages, Should Serve Him! His Dominion Is An Everlasting Dominion, Which Shall Not Pass Away! And His Kingdom That Which Shall Not Be Destroyed!”
 - And So - Jesus Knew That His Ultimate Glorification:
 - Did Not Come On The Day:
 - When The Jews Welcomed Him:
 - As Their King!
 - Because - *That Glory Was No Glory At All*:
 - Compared To The Glory That:
 - Would Be Given To Him:

- By God The Father!
- He Would Receive:
 - An Excellent / Extensive / Everlasting Kingdom!
 - Far Different Than What The Jews Were Looking For!
- But - The Way To His Glory:
 - Would Be Through This Hour:
 - Of Gloom!
- And - This Was The Purpose:
 - Of This Hour In Jesus' Life!
 - It Was An Hour Of Fulfilment:
 - Of So Many Of The Promises & Prophecies Made About Jesus:
 - From The Beginning Of Time!
 - And - *In Order To Meet With Jesus:*
 - *You First Need To Hear:*
 - *This Message Of Jesus!*
 - And - When You Hear Him - *Really* Hear Him:
 - One Day - You Will See Him!
 - Not Just In Humility:
 - But In Honor!
- But Then - Jesus Adds In His Message:
 - To Those Greeks & To Us:
- The Plan Of His Hour!
 - Which We Find In:
 - 12:24 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit!"
 - This Was The Eternal Plan:
 - For This Hour:
 - In Jesus' Life!
 - That He - Like A "Corn Of Wheat!"
 - Should Die And Bring Forth Much Fruit!
 - Now - This Is The 17th Time:
 - Out Of 25 - That Jesus Introduces Something:
 - With The Words:
 - "Verily, Verily, I Say Unto You!"
 - And - Each Time He Does So:
 - It Is Because - What Follows:
 - Is A Truth That Is:
 - Absolutely Certain, Constant, And Consequential To Us!
 - It Matters!
 - And This Time - The Truth He Presents:
 - Is In The Form Of A Simple Parable:
 - About A Seed:
 - That Would Be Familiar To Anyone Who Has Ever:
 - Planted One!
 - If You Keep A Seed:
 - In Its Packet:
 - Nothing Will Happen!
 - And - Those Seeds:
 - Will Remain Seeds:
 - And Will Abide Alone:
 - As Seeds!
 - But - Only When You:
 - Sow The Seed Into The Soil:
 - Can It Sprout And Eventually:
 - "Bring Forth Much Fruit!"
 - And - For This To Happen:
 - That Seed Must Die!
 - That Seed Must Cleave Apart:

- In The Ground:
 - So That The Life Within Might Spring Forth!
- And - Just Like Any Parable Of Jesus:
 - This Natural Truth:
 - Possesses A Deeper, Spiritual Meaning!
- Because - Jesus Himself Is The Seed!
 - And The Eternal Plan For His Life:
 - Was His Death!
 - Like A Seed - He Was Sent By God The Father & Sown Into The Soil Of This World:
 - So That He Might Die & Then Yield Fruit In Those Who Believe In Him!
 - Even Fruit That Is Like Jesus Himself!
- And - This Was The Plan:
 - For This Hour In Jesus' Life!
 - It Was An Hour Of Fire:
 - In Which Jesus Would Die!
 - Which Neither Jew Nor Gentile Expected In The Messiah!
 - But - *In Order To Meet With Jesus:*
 - *You Need To Hear:*
 - *This Message Of Jesus!*
 - Because - When You Do:
 - One Day - You Will See Him!
 - And Even More - You Will Be Like Him!
 - "For We Shall See Him As He Is!" (1 John 3:2)
 - But Then - Jesus Adds To His Message:
- The Point Of His Hour!
 - Which We Find Next In:
 - 12:25 - "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal!"
 - This Was The Point:
 - Of This Hour:
 - In Jesus Life!
 - It Was To Bring Every Man:
 - Who Hears His Message:
 - To A Point Of Decision:
 - About Their Lives & About His Life!
 - Now - For The Greeks:
 - And, Really, For Most Of Us:
 - The Goal Of Life & Existence:
 - Is To Satisfy Our Innermost Desires - Whatever They May Be!
 - And - People Will Often Go To Extreme Measures :
 - To Do So!
 - Goals Of Possessions / Success / Pleasure / Adventure / Power / Knowledge! Etc!
 - So - To Those Who "Love Their Lives" - Or:
 - Their Souls - In This Way:
 - Jesus Rebukes! And Tells Us That:
 - In The End:
 - You Will Lose That Which You Most Desire!
 - However - To Those Who "Hate Their Lives" - And:
 - Their Souls - By Going Against:
 - Your Normal, Natural, And Worldly Desires:
 - Jesus Reassures! And Tells Us That - In The End:
 - You Will Gain Even More Than You Lose!
 - Now - For The Greeks:
 - Their Desire To See Jesus:
 - Was A Good Desire!
 - But - If Their Desire To See Jesus:
 - Was Just A Natural Desire & Curiosity:
 - To Satisfy Their Own Self-Interests - Then:

- In The End - They Would Lose What They Desired Most!
- In The End - If Seeing Jesus:
 - With Their Eyes - Was Not Mixed With:
 - Faith - They Would Only See Jesus On Earth - And:
 - Miss Out On Seeing Jesus In Heaven!
- *But* - If They Were Willing To:
 - Forego Their Desire:
 - To See Jesus With Their Eyes:
 - And Instead:
 - Believe In The Message Of Jesus - From Their Hearts!
- In The End:
 - Their Desire To See Him:
 - Would Be Fulfilled:
 - Throughout Eternity!
- And - This Was The Point:
 - Of This Hour In Jesus Life!
 - It Was Meant To Be An Hour Of Faith:
 - For Those Who Hear:
 - His Message!
 - Because - *Only When You:*
 - *Hear & Believe In The Message Of Jesus:*
 - *Will You Ever Be Able To:*
 - *One Day - Meet With Jesus!*
 - Because - When You First See Jesus:
 - With The Eyes Of Faith:
 - It Will Prepare The Way:
 - For You To Be With Jesus - Which Will Be Far More Satisfying In The End!
- And That Is Why:
 - Jesus Ends His Message:
 - To Those Greeks - As Well As:
 - To His Disciples - With:
- The Promises Of This Hour!
 - Which We Find In:
 - 12:26 - "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor!"
 - These Are The Promises:
 - That Stem From:
 - This Hour In Jesus Life!
 - And Jesus Encourages Us:
 - To See Him First:
 - By Faith - So That:
 - One Day - We Will See Him Forever:
 - In Full Fellowship!
 - So - When You Hear & Believe In:
 - This Message Of Jesus:
 - You Become His Servant!
 - And - If You Follow Him:
 - He Promises You:
 - A Special Home:
 - With Him - In His Own Presence!
 - So - It Is The Message Of Jesus:
 - That Makes A Meeting With Jesus:
 - Possible - And A Good Meeting That Will:
 - Have No End!
 - But - In Addition To:
 - A Special Home - He Also Promises:
 - A Special Honor:

- To Those Who Serve & Follow Him By Faith!
- Even Honor By God The Father!
- God The Father:
 - Will Honor All Those:
 - Who Honor His Son:
 - By Serving & Following Him!
- And - These Are The Promises:
 - That Come Through This Hour In Jesus Life!
 - It Was An Hour That Would Bring:
 - Eternal Fellowship & Blessing:
 - To Those Who Walk With Him In This World:
 - “By Faith, And Not By Sight!” (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- What A Message Jesus Had:
 - For Those Greeks - And For Us:
 - Even Today!
 - Because - *The Way To:*
 - *Meet Jesus Is To Hear & Believe In:*
 - *The Message Of Jesus!*
 - Even His Message About The Purpose & Plan & Point & Promises:
 - Of The Final Hour Of His Life!

Conclusion:

1. Now - We Are Left To Wonder:
 - If These Greeks:
 - Ever Got Their Meeting With Jesus!
 - Well - If They Didn't Get To See Him:
 - *Then* - Many Of Them Are Certainly:
 - Are Seeing Him *Now!*
 - And - I Would Imagine That:
 - They Are More Satisfied With:
 - Their Meeting With Jesus *In Heaven:*
 - Than They Would Ever Have Been:
 - With Just Meeting Jesus Here *On Earth!*
2. But - This Gives Us A Preview:
 - Of What Jesus Meant:
 - When He Would Tell Thomas - After His Resurrection:
 - In 20:29 - “Blessed Are They That Have Not See, And Yet Have Believed!”
 - And So - *The Way To:*
 - *Meet Jesus In Heaven:*
 - *Is To Hear The Message Of Jesus:*
 - *On Earth!*
 - And Believe In & Serve & Follow Him!

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