

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

May 26, 2021

### John 12: 20 - 32

**20** And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: **21** The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. **22** Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. **23** And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. **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. **25** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. **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 honour. **27** Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. **28** Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. **29** The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. **30** Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. **31** Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. **32** And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

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Pastor Tom read the verses as we went along in tonight's study.

### Verses 20 - 22

*20* And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: *21* The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. *22* Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

\*Jews and Greeks were gathered in Jerusalem for the observance of the feast of the Passover.

\*The concept of 'sharing Jesus' takes us back to John Chapter 1 when Jesus called Andrew (first disciple called) then Andrew went and told his

brother Peter about Jesus. Then when Jesus called Philip, Philip went and told Nathanael. So both Andrew and Philip tell someone else about Jesus.

\*Now in verse 21 the story turns a bit with some Greeks asking Philip to take them to see Jesus. Philip goes to Andrew and they both tell Jesus about these Greeks.

Pastor Tom related a story from a recent visit to Dunham's. He encountered not one but 2 people who brought up faith-based conversations, resulting in God's name being shared.

\*Programs through the church are good but the purest form of evangelism is individuals sharing their faith with another individual. (Friendship evangelism)

### **Verse 23**

*And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.*

\*There are times when the devil intends something, some event, for harm. BUT GOD, turns it into a good thing in order to be glorified. No matter how dark a situation is, God can send light into that situation for His glory.

\*Jesus says that it is time for Him to be glorified. So God takes the cross - meant to be a symbol of shame, used for the worst of the criminals - and turns it into the CROSS of JESUS. Crosses in Jesus' day were ugly and despised but look at the crosses in our church today: golden, shiny, inscribed with IHS (for In His Service). These ones point the way to Jesus.

\*Note: Peter and many others were crucified on crosses after Jesus was. Peter requested being hung on one upside down because he felt he was not worthy to be crucified like Jesus was.

### **Verses 24 - 26**

*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. 25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 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 honour.*

Pastor Tom remarked that he has used this verse in every committal service he has ever done.

\*The seeds have to go into the ground in order to germinate. The seed has to die in order to grow into a fruitful plant. This verse is an easy one to understand for most everyone.

\*But verse 25 and 26 are more difficult to follow. He that loves his life will lose it. Are there aspects of your life that you love? Such as children, grandchildren, spouse or church? If you love these things more than Jesus you will lose your life because Jesus is not first in your life.

\*And whoever hates their life in this world....This does not mean a person you hate or that you hate yourself. It's the life we have to live in this imperfect world which includes things that we hate. Sherri explained this well - don't put all your eggs in one basket in this world; count on being with Jesus in Heaven.

An example of this is the contradiction in values from Facebook:

Cutters can have a group on facebook promoting their self-mutilation, but Mt. Olive Church was reg tagged for playing Christian videos. We can easily hate the cutting but very confusing on the video issue.

Mark 8: 34 - 38

*34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

\*When Mark wrote this it was as if he were describing this generation in verse 38. It's like he could have written the verse yesterday! Powerful!

## **Verse 27**

*Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

\*This is telling us why Jesus came: even though He wanted spared from it, it was His purpose for coming.

## **Verses 28 - 29**

*28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. 29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.*

\*This voice of God again spoke to Jesus (another time was at His baptism) and again the people heard it! How could you deny Jesus after hearing the voice of God?

## **Verse 30**

*Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.*

\*The voice came for the people not for Jesus. God sent this evidence to the people to confirm to them who Jesus was/is.

\*Bill McMillen shared that he had a vision of Jesus. It's hard not to believe when that happens.

## **Verse 31**

*Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*

\*Job talked about the devil not being kicked out of heaven at that time. Jesus is telling us that the devil is now being cast out.

\*Like the storm about to blow through our area, judgement is coming soon.

## **Verse 32**

*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

\*When Jesus was lifted up onto the Cross, He was made a sacrifice for our sins and now men and women are drawn to Him.

\*A feeling is that something big is about to happen. It is a critical time for the church, families, and ourselves because we are making decisions about what is right and wrong.

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Discussion followed on various topics including:

\*How blessed our church has been financially making us able to give to community causes.

\*Other churches are closing or asking their congregation for more money to keep going.

\*Need for getting back to church before too many people get too comfortable not coming into the building. Referred to Karen's quote -

'The more you miss church, the less you miss it!'

\*Losing ourselves to the world by skipping church.

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Everyone said goodbye!