

# **“Being Sons Of The Light”**

## **John 12:20-35**

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November 14, 2021

**Teaching Aim:** To examine the circumstances surrounding “*Passion Week*” as Jesus headed towards His crucifixion. To realize the reason Jesus was so troubled as the day of the crucifixion approached. To recognize the importance of glorifying God in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. To understand how important it is for Christians to walk in the light and to be “*sons of the light*” as we minister to others in the name of Jesus.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: Certain Greeks come requesting to meet with Jesus (John 12:20-22)**

1. It is interesting that Gentiles came to meet Jesus at the beginning and end of His life (See **Matt. 2:1-2; John 12:20-22**) What makes the visit of Gentiles so significant? How were these Greeks related to Judaism? (See Commentaries) What can we learn about these men from **verse 20**? Note: One of the major themes in John’s gospel is that Jesus is not only the Savior of the Jews, but also of the Gentiles. He saves people from all nationalities and races.
  
2. Which of the disciples did these Jewish proselytes approach requesting a meeting with Jesus (**vs. 21**)? Why do you think they went to him? What famous Greek political figure’s father had the same name as this disciple? It should also be pointed out that many Gentiles lived in Philip’s hometown of “*Bethsaida*” in Galilee. Is it possible they may have known Philip and went to him to arrange a private meeting with Jesus?
  
3. Which disciple did Philip immediately go to (**vs. 22**)? Besides being the brother of Peter, what makes Andrew stand out in ministry? What famous ministry outreach was known as, “*Operation Andrew*?” Why did Billy Graham choose this name?

#### **Part II: The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified (John 12:23-33)**

1. Is there any indication in the Bible that Jesus ever spoke to these Greeks? Who did Jesus speak to according to **verses 22 & 23**? What message did Jesus reveal to Philip and Andrew? Note: Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus had been telling people that it was not his time yet, now that suddenly changes. What did Jesus mean when He said, “*the hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified*?”

2. Jesus' favorite title for Himself was, "*the Son of Man.*" He used this title to refer to Himself at least 82x in the four gospels of the New Testament. Why did Jesus use this title so often and what was the significance of it? (See **Daniel 7:13-14**) Was Jesus simply saying, "*I'm a man,*" or was there more there?
  
3. Jesus then tells His disciples that unless He dies, His people cannot be saved. Jesus used an agricultural illustration to make His point. What illustration did He use (**vs. 24**)? Note: The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross was necessary if anyone was ever to be saved from sin and receive eternal life.
  
4. Not only would Jesus have to die, but every born-again believer is called to die to self and live for Christ. Why? What important truths do we learn from **Gal. 2:20**? Why is it important for people in ministry to plant themselves in their community and local church? From your experience, how long does it take for a new pastor to win the confidence of his congregation and to establish himself in the new community? Why do you think so many pastors move quickly from one location to another? Does this help or stifle the ministry of a church?
  
5. As Christians, we are to die to self and live for Christ. What is Jesus saying in **verse 25**? Why do you think so many people today focus only on this world and not eternity? Can you think of anyone who has given up earthly wealth to serve Christ? (See **Matt. 16:24-26a**)
  
6. What did Jesus call for His disciples to do in **verse 26**? What comes to mind when you think of "*a servant?*" What can we learn from **John 14:15**? Does this describe you? Our love for Christ should compel us to live our lives in service of Him and His church. (See **2 Cor. 5:14-15**). What is the driving factor in your life, to live for self or to live for Christ?

7. The weight of His coming crucifixion laid heavily upon Jesus long before He reached the Garden of Gethsemane. What was Jesus wrestling with in **verse 27**? (See **2 Cor. 5:21**)  
Note: The sinless Son of God was about to become the sin bearer of His people. What did Jesus come to ultimately save us from? (See **Rom. 5:8-9**)
  
8. What was Jesus' one request in **verse 28**? How did the Father respond to this request? There are only three occasions in the Bible where we see the Father speaking audibly to Jesus. When did the Father do so and what were the circumstances surrounding each occasion? (See **Matt. 3:16-17; 17:5-8; 12:28b**)
  
9. Did the people understand what the Father had said (**vs. 29**)? How did they explain it away? Do people still try to explain away the Word of God today, especially when it comes to the Bible? Why do they do they do this? How did Jesus respond to the people (**vs. 30**)?
  
10. What Satan thought was his greatest victory turned into his greatest defeat. What revelation did Jesus present in **verse 31**? Satan can make our lives miserable, but his time is running out. Today Satan is like an angry pit bull on a leash. He tries to do as much damage as possible; part of that is by blinding the eyes of the unbeliever. What can we learn from **2 Cor. 4:3-4**? Does this help you better understand your unbelieving family members and friends? (See **Eph. 6:12**)
  
11. Jesus told His disciples the day is coming when Satan will be cast out. When do the events of **Rev. 12:9-11** take place in history? (See Commentaries). What will the end result be for Satan? (See **Rev. 20:10**) Why do you think God releases Satan at the end of the millennium for a short time before casting him into the lake of fire and brimstone? Is there a lesson in this for us to learn?
  
12. What did Jesus say would happen at His crucifixion (**vs. 32**)? Was He saying every person on earth would be saved? What did Jesus mean?

13. It was essential for Jesus to come to earth and die on the cross for our sins. What can we learn about this from the following verses? (See **Heb. 2:14-15; Col. 1:13-14**)
  
14. According to **verse 33**, what was Jesus signifying when He said, “*And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself?*” Will there ever become a time when the Jewish people realize what they have done in crucifying Christ and grieve over it? (See **Zech. 12:10-11**). How did most of the Jews react to the first advent of Christ?

### **Part III: Walk in the light while you still have the light (John 12:34-36)**

1. There was some confusion among the people when it came to Jesus. According to **verse 34**, what were the people struggling with? Were they right in thinking the Messiah’s kingdom would be eternal? (See **Dan. 7:13-14; Isa. 9:6-7**) What had most of the Jews in Jesus’ day completely missed? (See **Isa. 52:13-53:6**) How does the Jewish religion interpret **Isaiah chapter 53** today?
  
2. In **verse 35**, Jesus warned His disciples that He would only be with them for a little longer. What special message did Jesus give to His disciples? When would this darkness be manifest? (See **Matt. 27:45-46**)
  
3. Throughout the gospel of John, Jesus has been identified as “*the Light of the World.*” What can we learn about the ministry of Jesus from the following verses? (See **John 1:4; 8:12; 9:4-5**) How is the advice of Jesus in **verse 35** still good advice for us today?
  
4. **Verse 36** marks the end of Jesus’ public ministry as far as the Gospel of John is concerned. What final instructions did Jesus give to His disciples about light? What are the characteristics of “*sons of light*” today? (See **1 John 1:5**) Have you become a follower of Jesus Christ? Are you walking in His light or are there some changes you need to make in your life?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Gentiles came to meet Jesus at both the beginning and end of His life on earth.
- Every time we see Andrew in the Bible, he is leading someone to Christ.
- A seed has to die and be buried before it can bear a fruitful harvest.
- Jesus was born to die so that we could be saved and have eternal life in Him.
- Christians are to die to self and live for Christ.
- In ministry we should plant ourselves in one spot, then we can germinate and bear much fruit over time!
- God the Father spoke audibly only three times during the life of Jesus and this passage is one of them.
- The church will be made up of people from all races and nationalities.
- The Jews completely missed the fact that there would be two advents of the Messiah.
- As "*sons of the light,*" we are to believe in Jesus and walk in His light.