

Jesus is the Christ (from John's gospel) # 42 (Matters of Life & Death # 8)

## John 12<sup>20-36</sup>

# When Jesus explains & explores glorification

What unfolds when some Greeks wish to see Jesus



(Explanation)

("We wish to see Jesus")

As we open up God's word – **What is on your mind?**

Is it this: *I wish to see Jesus* ?

This is how our text today opens – (21):

- people coming / saying "*Sir, We wish to see Jesus*"

But what is really interesting is **who they are** – who said this:

- last week when we looked at previous passage
  - about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on donkey:
    - accompanied by disciples,
    - thronged by crowds,
    - pursued by Pharisees;
- **disciples** wanted to see Jesus better – full of confusion;
- but it was not the disciples who said *We wish to see Jesus*;
- **crowds** wanted to see Jesus – lined road probably for miles looking for His coming;
  - crowds full of expectations;
  - but it was not the crowds who said *We wish to see Jesus*;
- **Pharisees** wanted to see Jesus - see Him arrested / tried / condemned to death;
  - Pharisees full of frustration w Him;
  - but it was not the Pharisees who said *We wish to see Jesus*;
- surprisingly it was a totally new group of people:
  - bunch of **Greeks** / Gentiles;
- this is v significant.

You might remember that last week Pharisees made that **ironic criticism** of one another:

*"You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, **the world has gone after him.**"*

- not quite the case then – exaggeration to say world gone after Him;
- but ultimately it will be the case - whole world will go after Him;
- unwitting prophetic truth is :
  - not a mere nationalistic thing for Jews;
  - this is a whole world / universal thing – Jews & Gentiles.

Now it is **starting to happen already** – Greeks coming saying *We wish to see Jesus.*

- word means they requesting an interview w Jesus:
- opportunity to meet Him / hear Him / learn from Him.

Request comes **indirectly** to Jesus via Philip / Andrew:

- answer comes indirectly too:
- we not told about any actual encounter w these Greeks – not necessary for us;
- but we are told the essence of Jesus' response to situation.

(23) And Jesus answered them, "*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*"

- Jesus has often spoken about the hour;
- 2(4) My hour has not yet come.
- 5(28) An hour is coming.
- 7(30) His hour had not yet come.
- now 12(23) The hour has come.
- What hour? "*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*"

Jesus' answer is to talk about **glorification** – His glorification;

- that would ramp up people's expectations all the more;
- this is what they want – glory – power/glorify – deliverance / freedom;
- we know from last week: their expectations are way off mark of what Jesus doing;
- Jesus been confronting their expectations by choosing to ride on donkey
- so we might find what Jesus says here somewhat surprising;
- we are in the know – we know how this is going to unfold – heard story before;
- might expect Him to speak of the hour of suffering
  - hour of anguish;
  - hour of darkness;
  - hour of the Prince of power of the air
  - hour of forsakenness / abandonment;
- but No! - *The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*"
  - really! – already! – Isn't that for sometime later?
  - Aren't we getting a bit ahead of ourselves?
  - of course not – this is Jesus!

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

Why does He say this? What does He mean?

- thankfully He then goes on to explain Himself / explain glorification.

## (Jesus explains glorification)

(Fruitfulness through death)

(24) *Truly, truly, I say to you,*

*unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone;  
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

You **children** have already got this:

- this grain of wheat looks dead;
- if leave it like this – will be dead / or is dead;
- but if bury it in earth like you do a dead body

- ⇒ germinates / sprouts / shoots / grows;
  - pushes stem up thru earth;
  - absorbs more / more nutrients from ground;
  - absorbs power from sun;
  - absorbs water of life from rain.
- ⇒ grows into big stalk of wheat;
  - each stalk has **lots of grains** – fruitful – but fruitfulness not end there;
- ⇒ each grain can be buried / produces more / more;
  - and so cycle goes on / on / on – amazingly fruitful.

**Remember** what Jesus is doing: this is Jesus **explaining glorification** for us – His glorification:

- He cannot remain here – this will not fulfil His purpose for coming;
- He must die / dead & buried;
- but then He must rise – will rise;
  - rise to bear much fruit;
  - rising He will bring forth many more kernels of wheat / seeds;
    - they too will die / rise – fruitfulness will flourish – whole thing glorious.

So we see that His glorification **included all His people** / includes us;

- this is what we read in that OT prophecy:

Isa 53(10) It was the will of the LORD to crush Hm;

He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for sin,

He shall see His offspring;

He shall prolong His days;

the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

- that phrase: He shall see His offspring;

- is sometimes translated He shall see His seed;

- you might think that is just old English language of KJV;

- but same Hebrew word is used in this verse:

Gen 1(11) And God said, "*Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.*" And it was so.

- so Isa 53 is literally saying : Jesus will see His seed;

- OT anticipates powerfully illustration Jesus uses of grain / seed of wheat;

- He dies / rises – produces seed / seeds – amazingly fruitful.

Implication is that **our fruitfulness** is **dependent** on us also dying / buried / rising;

- disciples would not have got this at time;

- but later when HS came – reminded / opened eyes of understanding – got it:

Rom 6(10) The death He died He died to sin, once for all,  
but the life He lives He lives to God.

(11) So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin  
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- so Jesus is like firstfruits – He dies w sin / on account of sin / for sin;

- we die to sin – rise to righteousness / fruitfulness in Him;

- think about implication for yourself:

- if you're going to live fruitful life – must begin by dying to sin.

What that mean?

- Jesus goes on here to explain it for us w **another profound paradox**:

*(25) Whoever loves his life loses it,*

*and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

Eternal life through hate

Does **hate** seem to you to be over-the-top way to express this? Why Jesus say this?

- key seems to be in what we are to hate – **our life in this world**;

- they thought Jesus was coming to set up kingdom in this world;

- Jesus knows: His **kingdom is not of this world** – bigger / higher / above beyond;

- Satan had sought to tempt Him w glory of taking up kingdom in this world;

- but Jesus rejected that temptation w vengeance – hated thought;

- far greater glory in agenda He has w His Father.

Now Jesus is seeking to **inculcate** that **same attitude**: He has - in them;

- they too must **hate their life in this world**;

- not hate in absolute sense as if  $\exists$  nothing but hatred;

- for He also says our life is His gift;

- apostle Peter says it is good thing to love life – 1 Pet 3(10).

- but hate in relative sense – compared w **eternal life in world to come**.

Appropriate to speak in strongest term – even use word ‘hate’;

- because if we live for what this world has to offer;

- live for what we can enjoy in this world;

- live for pleasures of this world – good as many of them might be;

- our freedom / family / friends / holidays / work opportunities;

- if we live for these things in this world

$\Rightarrow$  we have **disconnected** our enjoyment of this world **from Jesus**;

- His **kingdom is not of this world** – present in this world but **not of ...**

- our kingdom / our ultimate home / our ult pleasure is not of this world;

$\Rightarrow$  if we disconnected our life from Jesus’ priorities as shown in His dying/rising

- our love for this life will be soul-destroying;

- we will lose life altogether.

But if we got it – how **life here is in Jesus**:

$\exists$  beginning of hint : **glory** is not only in where He taking us;

- but  $\exists$  glory in how we get there in Him;

- it is something we have now / keep / carry over into eternal life.

*Whoever loves his life loses it,*

*and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

(Honour through serving)

Now Jesus unpacks this glory idea bit further for us:

*(26) If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also.*

*If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.*

- it’s **all about following** Him;

- He died / buried / rise;

- we must die to cares of this world.

**Disciples didn't get it yet** – later Paul gets it:

Gal 2(20) I have been crucified with Christ.

It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Do we get it?

- glorification is **not just** about some **far off event**;
- glorification begins here – w Jesus / following Jesus / servng Jesus;
- to live is Christ – to die is gain - ∃ glory in both.

**Serving** is what Jesus says it is all about;

- serving is a concept prevalent here in Canberra;
- many people here / many of you have jobs in public service – are public servants;
- it is an **honour** to be employed to serve in best interests of community;
- but it is even greater honour to be called as servant of Lord of glory – Jesus Himself;
- to serve Him = to serve His sovereign purposes in world;
- to serve Hm = to serve in the fulfilment of grand / glorious plan for universe.
- call to serve comes to each / every one of us here.

*If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.* – ∃ **glory** in this now.

We **can only grasp** the real freedom / **glory** there is in this serving,

- if we seen / felt what it cost Jesus to enter in / secure this for us;
- = what we get glimpse of next in our text:

(27) *"Now is **My soul troubled**.*

*And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'?*

*But for this purpose I have come to this hour.*

**Yieldedness through anguish**

Jesus **knows exactly** what He about to face in laying down His life;

- anticipating abandonment;
- foreboding of forsakenness;
- reality of God's wrath against sin  
⇒ shrinks back for it – **Is there another way?**
- His resolve declares to us all:  
∃ one way – only Way – He going that way - He **IS** the way.
- He's ready ...

(28) *"Father, **glorify Your name**."*

- What a way to put it! - proceeding is path of glory – **let glory unfold!**

Then something amazing happens – something : has only happened 2x before in life of Jesus

- happened at His incarnation;
- happed at His transfiguration;
- something totally / literally out of this world;
- **a voice came from heaven**;
- God speaks in audible voice from out of this world – into this world;
- then **voice from heaven**: *"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."*

Father confirming what Jesus been saying : this is **all about glorification**

- past / present / future;

*I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."*

**All people heard it** – like thunder – but seems : they could **not understand it**;

- Jesus says they need to understand it – intended for them even more than for Him;
- so Jesus tells them what God said - explains & explores glorification w them / w us.

## (Jesus explores glorification)

(Glorification through life)

Father had said *I have glorified it:*

- God is glorified in whole life of Jesus;
- Jesus is glorified thru'out His whole life;
- Jesus IS revelation of the glory of God – said so in beginning:  
*John 1(14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
 and we have seen His glory,  
 glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace/truth.*
  - it has always been about glorification;
- glory of God is revealed in His life – **glorification thru'out life** - but also ...

Glorification through death

*I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again*

- Jesus **death** / burial / resurrection not only end in glory – but is **glory**;
- glory of gospel – is happening now – says Jesus.

*(31) Now is the **judgment** of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.*

Glorification through judgement

Pharisees / Sadducees had **passed judgement on Jesus**;

- declared definitively that He must die – **one man must die to save whole nation**;
- soon they would have people on side;
- this world will be passing judgment on Jesus;  
  - but reality is world is judged on basis of its judgment of Jesus;
  - just judgment of world is happening there & then – this is **for God's glory**.

*Now will the **ruler of this world** be cast out;*

- Satan thought cross was his triumph over Jesus – dead / buried;
- but triumph / **glory is Jesus'** - cross is cause for Satan being cast out.

*(32) And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.*

Glorification through being lifted up

∃ **multiple meanings** to word **lifted up**;

- **lifted up** bodily above the earth by the Romans who actually nailed Him to cross;
- **lifted up** to public shame / contempt by Pharisees / Sadducees;
- **lifted up** exalted above earth by God – who says ∃ glory in cross;
- **lifted up** exalted in hearts / lives of all who drawn to trust in Him for eternal life.

(33) He said this to show by **what kind of death** he was going to die.

- death on a cross;
- death on account of contempt by world who would not have Him rule over them;
- death which was motivated by highest of motives – love;
- death which accomplished salvation for sinners;
- death which is crowned w **glory & honour**.

The voice from heaven **sums up everything**: "*I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."*

(32) *When I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw all people to Myself**.*

## Application

Remember: this all unfolded because some **Greeks** / Gentiles came / said **we wish to see Jesus**;

- how they responded we are not told – they are not the point;
- point is that all peoples: Jews / Gentiles are being drawn to Jesus;
- ∃ crowd there who seem more confused than ever re how to respond to who Jesus is;
- but the Q for us now is How shall we respond right now?

## We wish to see Jesus

∃ **2 ways** of seeing Jesus:

- seeing Jesus the way He chosen to **reveal Himself** here:
  - glorified in judging the whole world;
  - glorified in confronting / condemning sin in flesh;
  - glorified in laying down His life an atonement for sin
- OR do we prefer to see a **different Jesus**:
  - the gentle / non-judgemental Jesus;
  - the caring / non-confronting Jesus;
  - the sympathetic / non-sacrificial Jesus.

Jesus says **If anyone serves Me, He must follow Me**.

## We wish to follow Jesus

∃ **2 ways** of following Jesus:

- either following Jesus in the way He says here : He is being glorified;
- following Him in **taking up our cross** – dying to self:
  - self-serving / self-pleasing / self-indulging / self-centredness;
  - trusting in His atoning blood to cleanse us from sin / self-seeking;
  - rising to new life - everything revolving around Jesus:
    - Exalt / Edify / Evangelise;
- OR are we more inclined to think following Jesus = **living a good life**:
  - integrity / honesty / kindness / compassion;
  - save me from this religious stuff of sin / sacrifice / cross / glory;
  - let me focus on living a good life here / now.

We seen : this whole section is about **Jesus explaining / exploring glorification**;

- and how His glorification brings us along with Him into that;
- not only for life to come – in place which we tend to call '**glory**' – but here & now.

## We wish to be glorified with Jesus

∃ 2 ways of being glorified w Jesus:

- either **glorifying in the gospel** / glorying in the cross / glorifying in the Christ;  
   - counting it a privilege to serve / suffer / sacrifice in Him / with Him / for Him;
- OR wanting people to **acknowledge me** / appreciate me / like me / praise me;  
   - bringing Jesus along for the ride.

Gospel of Jesus presented here is a **glorious paradox**:

- when we love our life ⇒ we lose it
- when we lose our life ⇒ we gain it;
- when we rise in our own importance ⇒ we die;
- when we die to ourselves ⇒ we rise in glory;
- when we focus on our own fruitfulness ⇒ we become unfruitful;
- when we are buried in / w Jesus ⇒ we bear fruit w / for Him.

The **voice from heaven** extends to you:

*I have glorified you and I will glorify you again.*

## Pray

**Sing** Glorious Christ

Glory is not only in heaven but in the sacrifice of laying down His life

**Benediction** Rev 7(12)

Amen!

Blessing & glory & wisdom & thanksgiving & honour & power & might  
 be to our God forever and ever!

Amen.