



“A Dying Seed” | Rev. Josh Keller | March 21

John 12:20-26, 31-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. 21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 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 honor him...

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Key Points and Discussion Questions from Josh’s Sermon:

Introduction

Lent, looking all that is broken, eventually forces us to ask, “**what can be done?**”

1. The Old.
 - o If there is a new thing, there has to be an old thing.
 - o What were the characteristics of the Old Covenant?
 - o What were its benefits? What were its deficiencies?
 - o What did the old covenant ultimately accomplish for us? (Read Romans 7).
 - o What will be the essential characteristic of the New Covenant? (Read Jeremiah 31: 31-34)
 - o How will this work? How will this occur?
 - o What sort of loving actions will this require? Comfortable ones? Or threatening ones? How so? (Love requires a “cracking open.”)
2. The Seed & The New
 - o How does the image of a seed relate to the New Covenant?
 - o In what sense does a seed die when it falls to the ground? In what sense does it live?
 - o When Jesus refers to the “seed dying,” what three things did Josh say the “dying seed” represents?

Closing Considerations:

Josh closes with the story of Maximillian Kolbe self-sacrificially allowing himself to be martyred in the Auschwitz death camp in Germany. Josh poses the question: did Kolbe wake up that morning deciding to become a martyr? If not, what sort of decisions along the course of Kolbe’s life might have readied him for such a noble choice?

What seeds of selfishness or self-centeredness must we individually and collectively allow to fall to the ground and die so that we can be made alive for God’s greater purposes in our lives, our relationships, and beyond? What hard seed in your life is God calling you to let Him put into the ground to die?

For hard, lifeless seeds . . . **is there anything better that can be done?**