

# PEOPLE MATTER

## Part 1

*Pastor Mike Chapman*

As followers of Jesus we are called to be “connectors”—people who connect people to Jesus. Today we will look at another incident in the life of Jesus. Once again we will see Philip and Andrew connected people with Jesus. This time it is not friends and family. It’s foreigners -- Gentiles to be exact! (John 12:20-33)

### The Setting

This event took place during **Holy Week**.

The city is packed with Jews for the Passover.

Jesus’ popularity is increasing as the news of Lazarus’ being raised from the dead spreads.

The triumphal entry of Jesus filled Jerusalem with shouts of “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”

The religious leaders were intensifying their plot to kill Jesus.

### The Seekers

The Greeks who came to Jerusalem were not **Jews** who were living in Greece.

They were Gentiles coming to Jerusalem during the Passover to worship.

Such Gentiles were known as **God Fearers**.

Why did they ask to see Jesus?

Perhaps they were **dissatisfied**.

Maybe they were **disillusioned**.

It seems obvious they were **desperate**.

## The Significance

Jesus declares the **poignancy** of this moment when he said...

*The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified! Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains only a single seed, but if it dies, it produces many seeds.*

These Greeks represent, at the end of end of Jesus' earthly life

what the **Wise Men** represented at its beginning.

*'When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself.'* He said this to show what kind of death he was going to die.

Jesus is not just the king of the Jews. He is the King of the whole world.

## Our Situation

We live in a moment in history where dissatisfaction, disillusionment, desperation is evident all around us.

Question ... **Have you heard such a cry from someone?**

Jesus is the answer.

Like Philip and Andrew, we are called to be connectors.

Bring them to Jesus.