



Series: Gospel of John	Date: <b>Jan. 22nd 2017</b>
Topic: <b>Life Giving Paradoxes</b>	Speaker: <b>Pastor Joe Ong</b>

## WELCOME

This week we look at some of the life giving paradoxes found in the Gospel of John.

For the ice breaker this week, share your answers to the following question: Would you prefer really hot weather or really cold weather?

## WORSHIP

Start the worship time by encouraging people to share praises for what God has done in their life this past week. Sing worship songs from the Sunday services or select your own.

## WORD

**I. Spiritual Objective.** At the end of the discussion, members will:

- A. Discuss the importance of service and surrendering control of our lives to Christ.
- B. Talk about how we can know who the true Jesus is and how do we experience Him in our lives.

**II. The Sermon Synopsis:**

Returning to the Gospel of John we find Jesus teaching in three paradoxes. A paradox is a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense, and yet it is perhaps true. Christianity contains many paradoxical truths. The foremost is that “a God who would die to save His creation”.

In the passage of John 12:20-26, Jesus lays out three paradoxical life giving teachings. The first is **that life comes through death**. Our life comes through Jesus’ death. The second statement is that **life comes through spending it**. When we try to hold onto everything in our lives, we end up losing everything. Finally, **greatness comes through service**. We can truly do great things for the Kingdom when we surrender to God and serve Him and others.

## The Text:

*20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to Philip 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." 22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. 23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, 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. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

**(John 12:20-26)**

## Discussion Questions

**III.** The Gospel of John reveals to us who the true Jesus is. To know who Jesus is, we should always turn to Scripture first. *Who is Jesus to you? What are some of the characteristics of Jesus that you have experienced personally? In what other ways have you experienced Jesus in your life?*

**IV.** God’s time is not our time. As Pastor Joe mentioned it is critical that we seek first God’s purposes and His timing for our lives. *What do you think are God’s purposes? How do you understand “God’s timing”? How do you understand it in your own life?*

**V.** The first paradox is that “life comes through death”. The Kingdom of God works in a way that there is no victory without surrender. *What does it mean, practically, that life comes through death? How does surrender lead to victory?*

**VI.** The second paradox is that “life comes through spending your life”. Pastor Joe challenged us to stop trying to control our lives and overly grasp for security. Instead we should be placing our focus on eternity. *Why is it difficult to release control over our lives? What are*



*some of your worries? How can we begin to give our lives over to God instead of trying to control it ourselves?*

**VII.** The final paradox is that “greatness comes through service”. There is a form of spiritual growth that only can occur through service. If we are not actively serving God, we are limiting our own spiritual growth. *What are some ways that you are serving God? What are some non-church ministry ways that you are serving God? What can be gained through serving God that cannot be gained in other ways?*

## WORK

- **Pray** and ask God to take control of your life and to help you surrender control of your worries to Him. Ask God to reveal what His purposes are for your life and how you can serve Him this week. Finally, thank Him for coming and dying to save us all.
- **Pray for Our Building Expansion Project (BEP).**
  - ❖ We continue to wait for our application to the Bldg. Dept. for the modification to our Conditional Use Permit to be approved. Please pray that they will accept this new application without further complications.
  - ❖ Continue praying that our architect will complete the detailed construction drawings this week so we can apply for our building construction permit by mid-February.
  - ❖ Pray for our meeting on Wed. with our contractor, Kingdom Builders, as we review the latest update of his cost estimate. Pray that we can keep it within our original budget and still meets our needs.
  - ❖ The grading permit application has been moving through the approval process—please continuing praying that it will be approved by the end of Feb so we can begin grading soon.

## Announcements:

1. **Youth Alpha Series.** The Youth Alpha Series continues this Friday for the next 7 Friday Nights (**1/27 - 3/10**). They are still in need of generous Home Groups or individuals who are willing to help provide a meal. They are also asking parents to commit to driving their child/friends to Alpha.
2. **PUSH Night of Prayer.** This Friday, **1/27** at 7:00pm. Come join us for an evening of prayer as we pray for our ministry leaders and our various ministries for 2017 as well as our building expansion project.
3. **Child Dedication Service.** On Sun, **1/29**. Come out and support the parents of Evangeline Lau and Mia Okamura as they dedicate them to the Lord.
4. **Baptism Service.** Also on Sun, **1/29**, at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. We will also be baptizing Kevin Cezar, Jack Lopes, Kristyn Mimura, Danny Mitsuda, Kelcie Okamura, Nikita Richey, Kawai Wagner. Come and support them as they step out in faith to be baptized.
5. **Leadership Foundations Class #1.** Sat, **2/4**, 8:45 to 1:00pm. Training for all Ministry Leaders who haven't attended (or want to attend again) to provide us a unified foundation in character, knowledge, vision, values and lifestyle.
6. **Car Wash and Workday.** Sat, **2/11**, 9:00am to 12:30pm. Come and help wash the cars of the seniors in our community and help maintain our church building and grounds.

# Life Giving Paradoxes



LEEWARD  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

Pastor Joe Ong

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Part of Gospel of John

Published January 22, 2017

20-21 There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: “Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?”

22-23 Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, “Time’s up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24-25 “Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you’ll have it forever, real and eternal.

26 “If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you’ll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment’s notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me.

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1. **First, Life Comes through death** (v. 24)

“...I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

2. **Secondly, Life Comes through spending it** (v.25)

“He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

*We are called to place a higher value on eternal things than on the things on this earth.*

—Col. 3:1-3

*“I have learned to hold all things loosely, so God will not have to pry them out of my hands.”*

—Corrie ten Boom

### 3. **Third, Greatness Comes through service** (v26)

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

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Conclusion: