

John-(Week 29)
“When Seeing Jesus Changes Everything”
John 12:20–49 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a second and welcome our first-time guests and those of you who are watching online!

We’re walking through the Gospel of John and today we come to John chapter 12:20-49

“When Seeing Jesus Changes Everything”

Jesus reveals that His greatest glory is not found in earthly success, but in His sacrificial death, resurrection, and the call for all people to believe in Him before judgment comes.

Last week Sammy reminded us in John 12:12–19

That the people expected freedom from **Rome**, but Jesus came to bring freedom from **sin**—an eternal victory rather than a temporary one.

The crowd's worship was **sincere but misguided**. They praised Jesus for who they wanted Him to be rather than for who He truly is.

Jesus came first as the **humble King** who offered salvation through His sacrifice. He will return as the **victorious King** who will establish His everlasting kingdom.

The call for every believer is to recognize Him for who He truly is, worship Him with sincere faith, and live in readiness for His glorious return.

Prayer

So today let's look at the: **John 12:20–49 (NIV)**

There are moments in life when following Jesus is popular, and there are moments when following Jesus costs something.

In John 12, Jesus has just entered Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd. People are shouting, "Hosanna!" and celebrating Him as King. Yet Jesus knows that within days many of those same voices will cry, "Crucify Him!"

These passages teach us what it means to follow Jesus when the crowd changes, when faith becomes difficult, and when obedience requires sacrifice.

Church, every life has defining moments. There are moments that change everything.

- A graduation.
- A wedding.

- The birth of a child.
- The loss of a loved one.

History also has defining moments.

- The signing of important documents.
- The ending of wars.
- The discovery of medicines.

But no moment in history compares to what Jesus calls "the hour."

For three years Jesus has been preaching, healing, raising the dead, opening blind eyes, cleansing lepers, feeding thousands, and revealing the Kingdom of God.

Yet every time someone tried to force God's timetable, Jesus would say, "My hour has not yet come."

But now...Everything changes.

Every story has a moment where everything changes—a point of no return.

In the Gospel of John, that moment arrives right here in chapter 12.

Up until this point, Jesus has repeatedly stated, "My hour has not yet come" (John 2:4, 7:30, 8:20).

He has been operating on a divine timetable, slipping away from crowds and avoiding premature confrontation.

But in verse 23, the language shifts dramatically. Jesus declares, *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*

What triggers this shift? It isn't a military uprising or a political decree.

It is the arrival of a few foreign travelers—Greeks who come to Philip saying, *"Sir, we wish to see Jesus."*

The arrival of the Gentiles signals to Jesus that the mission is expanding beyond Israel to the whole world. The stage is set for the cross.

In John chapter 12, Jesus finally says: *"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."*

This isn't merely the beginning of the end. It is the beginning of God's greatest victory.

The world expected a throne-Jesus embraced a cross.

The world expected power-Jesus demonstrated sacrifice.

The world expected a conquering king-God sent the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

Today we are going to discover five truths about the glory of Christ.

The World Begins Looking for Jesus (John 12:20–22)

Scripture says,

"Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast."

These weren't Jews...They were Gentiles. Foreigners...People outside Israel.

They came to Philip with one simple request:

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

What an incredible statement.

Not..."We want to see a miracle."

Not..."We want free bread."

Not..."We want political change."

They wanted Jesus...Can I tell you something?

That is still humanity's greatest need.

People think they need money.

Others think they need success.

Some think they need another relationship.

Some think they need another vacation.

But beneath every human heart is one longing:

"We want to see Jesus."

The church has many ministries.

- We have music.
- Children's classes.
- Outreach.
- Bible studies.

But if people leave knowing everything about our church and nothing about Jesus, we have failed.

Everything we do should point people to Christ.

Philip brings Andrew...Andrew brings the Greeks...Then together they bring them to Jesus.

Notice something...God almost always uses people to bring people.

- Someone invited you.
- Someone prayed for you.
- Someone shared the Gospel with you.

Now it's your turn to bring someone else.
Never underestimate what one invitation can do.

Glory Through Sacrifice (John 12:23–26)

Jesus answers the Greeks in a surprising way.

He doesn't immediately meet with them.

Instead He says, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

If we had written the story, glory would mean:

- A palace.
- A crown.
- A celebration.
- A military victory.

But God's definition of glory is completely different.

Jesus immediately begins talking about death.
"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground
and dies, it remains alone."

Imagine holding a seed...It looks insignificant.

If you keep it on your shelf, it stays exactly what
it is.

But bury it...It looks like you've lost it.
Yet that burial produces life.

Jesus is the seed...His death looked like
defeat.

But His death produced salvation...His death
produced forgiveness.

His death produced the Church...His death
defeated sin.

His death defeated Satan...His death opened Heaven.

- Without Calvary...There is no resurrection.
- Without Calvary...There is no forgiveness.
- Without Calvary...There is no hope.

1. Sometimes God Produces Life Through Things We Thought Were Losses.

Sometimes He buries what we wanted so He can grow something greater.

Maybe God has allowed disappointment in your life.

Maybe a dream has died...Maybe a door closed...Maybe a relationship ended.

Sometimes God buries seeds because harvests grow underground before they appear above ground.

How many of us can relate to that, we wanted something or someone so bad but it didn't turn out the way we wanted or we even lost it.

Church, never mistake burial for abandonment. God knows exactly what He's doing.

Jesus then makes this personal in vs. 25

"He who loves his life will lose it."

This isn't telling us to hate ourselves.
It means don't build your life around yourself.

The world says,
"Protect yourself."

Jesus says, "Deny yourself."
The world says, "Live for yourself."

Jesus says, "Follow Me."

The world says, "Gain everything."

Jesus says, "Lose yourself to find eternal life."

Real discipleship costs something.

- It may cost comfort.
- It may cost popularity.
- It may cost friendships.
- It may even cost earthly success.

But whatever we surrender to Jesus is never truly lost.

He always gives back something greater.

(John 12:27–36)

Jesus says something astonishing.

"Now My soul is troubled."

This reminds us that Jesus was fully human.

He wasn't pretending...He knew exactly what waited ahead.

- The betrayal.
- The mocking.
- The crown of thorns.
- The nails.
- The cross.
- The wrath against sin.
- The weight of every sin ever committed would fall upon Him.

Yet notice what He doesn't pray.
He doesn't say, "Father, save Me."

Instead He says in verse 28,
"Father, glorify Your name."

That is surrender.

Our prayers often sound like, "Lord, remove this."

Jesus prayed, "Lord, use this."

Story of Hannah.

Sometimes God Gets More Glory From Sustaining Us Than Rescuing Us.

Then something incredible happens
God speaks from Heaven.

Some people hear thunder...Others think an angel spoke.

Same voice...Different hearts.

2. The Condition Of The Heart Determines What We Hear.

Two people can sit in the same church service.

One leaves transformed...The other leaves unchanged.

The difference is rarely the message.
It is the condition of the heart.

Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Why, because when the heart is not in the right place we can't receive anything.

Jesus declares three victories in (John 12:31–36)

First—The world is judged.

The cross exposes sin for what it really is.

Second—Satan is defeated.

The devil probably believed he had won.
Imagine Hell celebrating when Jesus was arrested.

Imagine darkness believing it had extinguished the Light.

But what looked like Satan's greatest victory became his greatest defeat.

The cross broke the chains of sin.

The resurrection destroyed the fear of death.

Jesus won.

Third—Jesus says,

"And I, if I am lifted up...will draw all people to Myself."

Notice He didn't say some people.

HE SAID ALL PEOPLE!

The Gospel is for every race.

- Every nation.
- Every language.
- Every background.
- Nobody is beyond God's grace.
- No addiction.
- No past.
- No failure.
- No shame.

3. Jesus Calls Us to Walk in the Light

The Danger of Rejecting the Light (John
12:37–49)

John tells us something heartbreaking.
Even after all the miracles...many still refused to believe.

Think about that, they watched blind people see...Dead people rise...Storms obey...Yet they still rejected Jesus.

That's the problem even today...we see all the things God has done in our lives and the lives of others but yet the moment things don't work in our favor or we get that diagnosis we begin to reject Jesus.

Miracles alone never create faith...DO YOU
HEAR ME CHURCH!!!

Faith comes through surrendered hearts.

John quotes Isaiah to explain Israel's unbelief.
Repeated rejection hardens the heart.

Every time someone ignores God's conviction,
it becomes easier to ignore it again.

One of the saddest verses says,
"They loved the praise of men more than the
praise of God."

Some believed secretly...But they would not
confess Christ publicly because they feared
people.

How many today stay silent because they fear
ridicule?

How many refuse obedience because someone
might laugh?

How many know what God is asking but delay
because they value human approval more than
God's pleasure?

Church, living for applause is a dangerous way to live.

People's opinions change but God's truth does not.

Jesus closes His public ministry with one final invitation.

He says, *"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."*

Darkness Represents:

- Sin
- Confusion
- Separation from God
- Spiritual blindness

Jesus came as light...Light does two things:

1. It reveals what is hidden.

2. It guides where we should go.

Without Christ, people stumble through spiritual darkness...With Christ, they find life.

Jesus also says something important.

"I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world."

His first coming was a mission of mercy.

He came to rescue...To forgive...To redeem.

But He also warns that the Word of God will stand as the standard of judgment for those who reject Him.

That is why today matters.

Every time the Gospel is heard, a decision is made.

No one remains neutral.

You are either choosing JESUS or you're choosing to reject Him.

There is no middle ground...Nothing is grey in the Kingdom of God, church.

You are either for Him or against Him.

Matthew 12:25 *“...a house divided will fall”*

WORSHIP TEAM

Church, John 12 asks one central question:
What will you do with Jesus?

The Greeks sought Him.

The disciples followed Him.

Some religious leaders secretly believed but feared people.

Others rejected Him altogether.

And Jesus walked willingly toward the cross because He loves sinners.

The hour He spoke of was not merely an hour of suffering—it was the hour when heaven's justice and heaven's mercy met.

At the cross, God's holiness was satisfied and God's love was displayed.

The cross looked like defeat, but it became victory.

The grave looked final, but it became temporary.

Death looked powerful, but Jesus proved He is greater.

If you have never trusted Christ, His invitation still stands today.

The same Savior who was lifted up on the cross now calls people from every nation, every background, and every story to come to Him in faith.

And if you already belong to Christ, remember that discipleship is not about seeking comfort or applause.

It is about following Jesus wherever He leads, trusting that the God who brought life from a buried seed can also bring hope, fruit, and purpose from every surrendered part of your life.

So as you leave today, ask yourself:

- Am I helping others see Jesus?
- What part of my life needs to be surrendered to Him?
- Am I living for the praise of people or the pleasure of God?
- Am I walking in His light each day?

- Are there areas of darkness I refuse to surrender?

May we leave this place determined not only to admire the cross but to follow the One who carried it.