

Bringing your best to Jesus

Life Notes: John 12:20-50

Opening

Did seeing Pastor Mark on the large screens seem odd?

Was there anything from the message this week that you were most encouraged by, or something you would like to talk about in our group today?

Unpacking the Text (I)

Jesus several times previously said: "His time [or hour] had not come" (John 2:4; John 7:6; John 7:30). What does Jesus now mean or what is he referring to when he says: "The hour has come..." (John 12:23)

Jesus said that of the "Son of Man must be lifted up." (John 12:34) What did he mean by this?

Jesus gave the analogy of a kernel of wheat dying and being planted in order to produce a harvest. In reference to Jesus himself, what did this mean? In reference to us, what does this mean?

What are some of the miraculous signs (referred to in John 12:37) that Jesus had done?

Why do you think that the great crowd of people who were calling Jesus the Messiah as he rode into Jerusalem a few verses back, are now rejecting him and not believing in him (John 12:37). What did they expect the Messiah to do and is this what Jesus was stating that he was going to do?

There were some leaders of the Pharisees who believed in Jesus but were afraid to openly state that. (John 12:42) Why was this the case and is it true today? In our society, does it cost us much to declare our faith in Christ?

Further Study

Read Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14 and compare with John 12:34. Why did God choose a serpent as a symbol on a pole and how does that relate to what Jesus did? (2 Cor 5:21)

There are only five times in all of scripture when God speaks to humans directly from Heaven and three of these are in direct reference to Jesus. When did these three events occur and why are they significant or pivotal points in Christ's ministry? See (1) Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22 (2) Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35 (3) John 12:28

Application

Jesus is calling us to "die" to ourselves and live for God. Can we see this in other people when they live this way? What are some of the ways we can tell?

Have you "died to self"? Can you give an example?

There is an old saying that goes: "If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"