

# WE WANT TO SEE JESUS!

When a group of Greeks heard about the message and ministry of Jesus, they asked if they could see Him. Rather than granting their request, He gave an answer that, though unexpected, is in fact the answer to anyone who wishes to see the Lord. (see John 12:20-27)

1. *To see Jesus, we must embrace His crucifixion.* “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified . . . for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, Glorify Thy name” (vs. 23, 27-28). Jesus knew He had been sent to die on the cross, but He also knew the Father’s promise. Human eyes would see a disgraced criminal hanging from a tree, but in that self-sacrificing act of humility, evil itself was being defeated (v. 31). Only those drawn to the paradox of the crucified, glorified Messiah will be able see Him (v.32).

2. *To see Jesus, we must follow His example.* “He who loves his life loses it . . . Whoever serves Me, let him follow Me” (vs. 25-26). Natural instinct urges us to do whatever it takes to survive. As far back as the Garden of Eden, humanity has chosen to rely on themselves instead of depending on God for life and satisfaction. In our

very attempts to save our lives, we lose them. Jesus came to show another way: He would willingly lay down His life in dependence on the Father and receive it back again by the supernatural power of God. His call to those wish to see Him is to follow His path, counting their lives secondary to God’s glory and trusting Him with the outcome.

3. *To see Jesus, we must join Him in His work.* “And where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor Him” (v. 26). The cross fully expressed the heart of God to men, showing Him to be a righteous lover, life-giver, and redeemer. The incredible news is that when we trust and follow Jesus, we join Him in what He is already doing in redemption. Having allied ourselves with Jesus, we will find that we are honored with Jesus! (cont.)

**“Sir, we wish to  
see Jesus . . .”**

**John 12:21 (NASB)**

## HIS GLORY WAS GONE . . .

“God found me a very proud person, and really I was just a spiritual mess! I focused on how bad my circumstances were and not God changing me through my circumstances. I had lost my joy and grown cold to God’s voice in my life. I was just going through the motions. God in His mercy and love began to break me and reveal the true condition of my heart. *His glory was gone.* I agreed with Him and have committed to yielding myself back to Him, to pursue Him. He has brought a freedom and peace. He has changed my heart and renewed my spirit.”

(Testimony from Oklahoma, U.S.A.)

4. *To see Jesus, we must embrace the cost of discipleship.* “Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’” (v. 27). The call to voluntarily lay down your life in faith and dependence on God cuts to the core of our human weakness. All that choose the path of discipleship must ask, “Will I go the way of the cross?” Again and

again, in every generation, the choice must be made. Will we hold on to our lives or will we lose them for Christ’s sake? And in this way, the strange mystery of the cross marches on: evil thinks it is winning, but God is using the very means of rebellion to decisively defeat it and to gather a people whose allegiance truly belongs to Him. ♦

### PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

- In what specific areas have I seen Jesus in my life?
- Am I willing to pay any price to see Him work in and through me?
- What sacrifices have I made in the last three months so that the name of God could be glorified?

*For further reflection, see John 12:20-26, 1 Peter 2:21-25.*

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