

John 12:20–36a: “Glory Through the Cross”

As children of God, as citizens of Heaven, the only way to experience eternal life here and now, is through serving the crucified and risen Christ; He has secured All Glory Through the Cross.

The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:

The final week of Jesus' life took place in Jerusalem during the Passover week. The passover was the most spiritually charged time of the year when Israel remembered deliverance in Egypt through the sacrifice of the passover lamb. And this festival was filled with Jews and Gentile worshippers, creating a global audience for Jesus' final teachings. The arrival of Greeks wanting to see Him shows that Jesus' influence extended beyond Israel and foretold the worldwide impact His death would have. Many had hoped for a political Messiah who would free Israel from Rome but instead Jesus revealed that His mission would not be fulfilled through conquest but through His sacrificial death.

Passage Outline

- **I. We Must Lose Our Life to Serve The King. (vv. 20-26)**
 - **II. Victory Only Comes Through Obedience (vv. 27-31)**
 - **III. The Cross of Christ draws the world to Jesus. (vv. 32-36)**
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Passage Notes

I. We Must Lose Our Life to Serve The King. (vv. 20-26)

The arrival of the Greeks reveals that Jesus' influence had begun to reach beyond Israel, signaling the moment when His hour of glorification had arrived. Jesus explains that His death, like a grain of wheat falling into the ground, would produce a harvest of new life by giving eternal life to all who believe in Him. Yet beyond the gift of eternal life, Jesus calls believers to a deeper path of discipleship, where surrendering one's own self-focused ambitions leads to spiritual fruitfulness, fellowship with Christ, and honor from the Father.

II. Victory Only Comes Through Obedience (vv. 27-31)

Jesus' obedience would glorify the Father through His sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection, fulfilling the mission of securing salvation for all who believe in Him. The Father's voice from heaven once again validates Jesus as the Messiah, though the divided crowd fails to recognize the significance of the moment. Through His obedience Jesus brings judgment on the world system and guarantees the ultimate defeat of Satan, the ruler of this world.

III. The Cross of Christ draws the world to Jesus. (vv. 32-36)

Jesus declares that when He is "lifted up" on the cross, He will draw all people to Himself, revealing that His death would unleash a universal invitation of grace. Though the Father draws the world through the cross, only those who believe in Jesus for eternal life actually receive salvation, while others resist the drawing and remain in darkness. Jesus calls everyone to respond to the Light while it is present, urging them to believe in Him so they may become sons of light and escape the darkness of unbelief.

What Have We Seen?

- ***We experience the richest life God offers only when we serve the King.***
 - *What does "losing your life" for Christ look like in your current season?*
 - **→ Lay down self-centered priorities and embrace a Christ-centered way of living knowing obedience opens the door to greater spiritual fruitfulness.**

- ***Victory becomes visible in your life only when obedience becomes your lifestyle.***
 - *In what area of our life do we need to obey?*
 - **→ God is glorified through your obedience, and your obedience becomes the pathway to experiencing the victory Christ already secured.**

- ***Stay in the Light so you can help others see the Light.***
 - *Where has our light went dim?*
 - **Keep your light lit, because the more you walk in the Light, the more God uses your life to point others toward Jesus.**