

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. John 12:20-22 tells us of a group of gentiles who had converted to Judaism, whom after witnessing the celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem as a triumphal King, came to Jesus wanting to see him. In his response, Jesus essentially said, "if you don't understand that my real glory is revealed in my death on the cross, you will never be able to see me."
 - a. How is Jesus glorified by his death on the cross?
 - b. John's account implies that these people who came to see Jesus could stand right in front of him, and still totally miss him. How could this be true for them? How could it be true for us?
 - c. Many people claim to believe in Jesus as a great teacher, but not as God and Savior. Does this passage teach that they will never be able to see Jesus? If so, why?
 - d. Many people believe a message that emphasizes what we can get from following God in the right way over the message of his death and sacrifice. Does this passage teach that they will never be able to see Jesus? If so, why?

2. In verse 24 Jesus said, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*" What is the spiritual principle that Jesus is teaching? How is death the path to life?

3. In John 12:31 Jesus said that his death is "*the judgment of this world.*"
 - a. What did he mean by this? What did his death accomplish that made it glorious?
 - b. Practically, why is it important for you to understand and believe what Jesus accomplished on the cross?

4. In John 12:24 Jesus taught the principle that life comes only as a result of death, teaching us about the nature of what he had come to do. However, in verses 25-26, he teaches that this principle is also true for those who follow him.
 - a. For those who follow Christ, practically what is Jesus teaching when he says that only through death can we discover life?
 - b. In verse 25 Jesus says, "*Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*" Practically, what does it look like it to live out this verse in your life?