

The hour has come

John 12:18-26

18 For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; 21 these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 "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. 25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. 26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:9-19 describes the royal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Verse 19 shows the reaction of Pharisees. What they said sets the stage for our passage today.

/But first, there is the matter of the perfect timing of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.\

/While not our subject today, Jesus presented Himself as the Messiah on the exact date that Daniel had foretold.\

Dan 9:25

25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress

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/In the book titled Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ, Harold Hoehner gives the day of Jesus' royal entry into Jerusalem: Monday, March 30, AD 33 - the tenth of Nissan.\

/That's highly significant, because Nisan 10 was the day that the lamb was selected for Passover.\

Ex 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. 3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household.

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/When Jesus entered Jerusalem, He was presenting Himself as THE Passover Lamb for Israel – and the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.\

1 Cor 5:7

7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

Let's pick things up now in John 12:20

John 12:20 Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; 21 these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

/These Greeks were God-fearing Gentiles (not Greek-speaking Jews).\

God-fearing Gentiles believed in the God of Israel and joined the Jews during the feasts to worship. However, they could not eat the Passover meal or enter the temple.

They wanted to speak with Jesus. They approached His disciples to make the request. Andrew and Philip came from Bethsaida, and probably spoke Greek.

In verse 23, Jesus does not grant their request.

/ Nevertheless, their desire to see Jesus signaled to Him that His hour had come.\

Up until now, His hour had not yet come, as John had recorded earlier in this gospel. For example:

John 2:1-4

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; 2 and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come."

John 8:20

20 These words He spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one seized Him, because His hour had not yet come.

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Jesus spoke of His hour in another way when He said that there were twelve hours in the day, and then night would come.

What hour? The hour for the Son of Man to be glorified.

/In John's gospel, the glorification of Jesus the Son of Man begins with His death on the cross and extends to His resurrection, ascension, and session at the glorious Right Hand of His Father.\

So how did the Greeks' desire to approach Jesus signal that His hour had come?

/Well, the Pharisees spoke far more than they understood when in verse 19 they said to one another, *"look, the world has gone after Him."* \

/So how did the Greeks' desire to approach Jesus signal that His hour had come?\

Remember back in chapter 10? Jesus taught that He was the good shepherd. Let's revisit what He said.

John 10:11-18

*"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12
"He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.*

13 "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

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“I have other sheep, which are not of this fold”.

/“This fold” was Israel. In fact, in the synoptic gospels, Jesus made a point of saying that He was sent for Israel.\

Matt 15:24

But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

/So the “other sheep who are not of this fold” must refer to the Gentiles.\

When the Greeks asked to see Jesus, Jesus knew that His hour had come.

/He knew that He was to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world – Gentile as well as Jew.\

This is a tremendous turning point in the ministry of Jesus.

As the Samaritan men in Sychar declared:

John 4:40-42

So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

/So the group of Gentiles who desired to see Jesus represents the world seeking salvation from Jesus.\

/At the very moment when the chief priests and Pharisees betray the most hostility to Jesus, the Gentiles desire to speak to Him.\

Out with the old, in with the new.

/Matthew records a parable that Jesus spoke either the same day as the Greeks approached Jesus, or else the following day.\

In any event, let's read it now.

Matt 21:33-46

33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey.

34 "When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 "The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them.

/The landowner in the parable is God the Father.\

/The vine-growers are the leaders of Israel.\

/The slaves are the Old Testament prophets (including John the Baptist).\

37 "But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 "They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

/The son of course represents the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.\

He was the Messiah, the chosen heir to the kingdom and the throne of David.

But the chief priests and Pharisees wanted to remain in power. So they killed Him outside the walls of Jerusalem.

40 "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?"

41 They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons."

42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures,

*'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,
THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone;
THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD,
AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'?*

43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. 44 "And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust."

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. 46 When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.

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Israel after the flesh was to be put aside. The kingdom for which they had waited so long was to be lost to them forever.

/In the future, the remnant of Israel, regenerate Israel, will receive the kingdom. But in the meantime, the grace of God would now go out to the Gentiles.\

For God so loved *the world* that He gave His only begotten Son.

He is the light that shines on every man.

And so Jesus would next say....

John 12:32-33

*32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** to Myself." 33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.*

/When we pick things up in two weeks, we will resume in John 12:24 and learn the "grain of wheat" principle.\

John 12:24 "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. 25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. 26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Jesus is going to turn to His disciples and teach them what following Him is all about.

There will be a big lesson here for all of us as well.