

Loving Life

John 12:20-36

Please stand for the reading of God's word. Our text this morning is John 12:20-36, page 899 in the pew bibles. (Address online).

INTRO

Want to love life? Lose it.

[Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:25](#)

If you love your life in this world, you'll lose it...

In our context, this is hard saying... We live in a B-E-A-Utiful place.

- Walk with Vinny; Seal, smoke underground shale fire.
- Silas and BBQing at the beach.

Is Jesus saying, if you go to the beach, you have to hate it? No.

True life is found in death

CONTEXT

In our text we are on the road to the cross. John 11 is a pivot from the Apostle John telling us stories to show us true faith in the true Christ= true life, and though the main point is the same, its scope becomes focused on the last week before Jesus is crucified.

Lazarus dies, and we learned to align our narrative with God's

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus and anoints him, and we learned there is no place you'd rather be than at the feet of Jesus!

John 12:12-19 is the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We will walk through this section in more detail on Palm Sunday, which is March 28th, BUT it does set the mood of our text and the buzz of the city.

Read vs. 12-13. It's passover, and Jesus has arrived as the coming KING!!!

Vs. 20-22

We wish to see Jesus. Why wouldn't they? Wouldn't you? Water to wine, heals the sick, the dead are raised, demons flee, and he's the coming King to set all things right!

Do you want to see Jesus? Ever thought about why?

-The Gospel of John shows us that MANY wanted to see Jesus, even followed Jesus for a season, but ended up falling away.

Life with JESUS does mean true and abundant life; peace with God, a new identity that's right and good, a redeemed purpose, and life-changing love of God that you will never, ever, ever fade... But like many of those we see in the Gospel of John, once people begin to follow Jesus and see he's not an add on to enhance your life or merely eternal life insurance, people begin to fade.

Why? Because you have to die, which is not a popular ... **True life is found in death**

Vs. 23-26

The Christian life is upside down. Contrary to how we think and filled with Paradoxes.

God's power is made perfect in our weakness. Power is found in weakness? Yes. (2 Cor. 12:9). Do we want to be rich? We must become poor. Do we want to be first? You must be last. Want to be a leader? You have to be a servant. *"If you want to live, we have to die."*¹

Jesus gathers a crowd, expecting him to bring heaven on earth and he says, *"Here's the truth, a grain of wheat has unlimited potential to produce millions of grains... But it has to die first or it will die alone."* That's you.

Within a little seed, if planted and matured, can produce a field of fruitfulness.

Not only do we experience **true life found in death** but we see life begin to sprout in others. Our existence goes from a lonely seed with no purpose to exist **for people to find and follow Jesus**. BUT, you have to die.

¹ Preaching the Word commentary on John, R. Kent Hughes, pg. 307

Friday, February 12, 2021

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:25

"Hate his life in this world"- It's not self loathing...

It's not going to our beautiful beaches with a chip on your shoulder ("I'll go to the beach but I'll hate every second of it.") or judge those who do with spiritual arrogance. "He went surfing yesterday? Must be backsliding".

"Hate his life in this world"- It's not self loathing... it's self-sacrifice!

It's a change of perspective and priorities, and honestly, it's a reasonable response to our redemption.

[1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 (exposit)

True life is found in death

Vs. 26, Jesus is saying this as the reality of the cross sets in. Following Jesus means we follow him to the cross and die so that, like the grain of wheat, the unlimited potential to be fruitful in this life is released! But it ain't easy...

Vs. 27a- "What you often don't hear, but it needs to be said"

Vs. 27b- The response to imminent death of self is a righteous abandonment and surrender to the situation.

"save me from this hour?", no, but instead, it is for this purpose I am here!

True life is found in death

Read 28-33- for your sake, not mine & "lifted up"- **Gospel**

Preaching the Gospel to John K.

Exposit Vs. 31-36, Because of the Gospel...

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Vs. 31, He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

Vs. 32, Lifted up/ draw all people- Lifted or exalted, ambiguous because the answer to the question, "is he talking about his death or about when we exalt the name of Jesus" and the answer is "yes".

Like the grain of wheat, because of the death of Jesus, we die to our selves continually!

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

"I die every day!" 1 Corinthians 15:31

True life is found in death

Through his death and our exaltation, people will be drawn to Jesus BUT, people will still come to follow Jesus for the wrong reasons.

Vs. 34- Wrong Jesus! So how do we know?

It's time to shine the light to the areas, square example.

Set up time of reflection and confession

SONG

Communion as a family.