

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gospel – Adapted from John 12:20-33

There were some Greeks who had come to worship. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus. He answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to receive glory. Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever holds onto his life loses it, but whoever is willing to give up his life in this world, will have everlasting life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant will also be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

“My soul is troubled. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is why I have come. Father, give glory to your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have given it glory, and I will do it again.”



The crowd standing by heard the voice. Some said it was thunder; others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now this world will be judged, and its ruler will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show what kind of death he would die.

Reflection

This Gospel poses a confusing challenge: “Does Jesus not want us to value our life? I thought God gave us life, and that it is good.” Yes, He did, and yes, it is. But life is not just the time we spend on earth. In fact, that

is just the very beginning. God has made us for eternal life, with Him, in Heaven. Jesus is challenging us to look at life as more than what we often think it is.

What Jesus is telling us today, is how much more value we should put on eternal life, much more

than on the time we spend here on earth. Jesus reminds us that we must die to be born to eternal life. And that dying begins with sacrifices we make now. Jesus sacrificed His whole life. We follow Him every time we sacrifice something we want for someone else. When we sacrifice some of our free time to help with the dishes, we are following Jesus. When we sacrifice our comfort by sitting on the floor so our little brother can have the couch, we are following Jesus. When we sacrifice our desires so our sister can have the last piece of cake, we are following Jesus. These are little things, but they are all ways we can let go of our love for worldly things, in favor of Heavenly things. That is what Jesus is asking of us today.



Discussion Questions

What is something you have a hard time sacrificing? When do you demand to have things your way, or get what you want?

Do you ever think about Heaven? How might your attitude change if you did?

Vocabulary

- **Detachment** - Not being attached to things; willing to give them up for God
- **Eternal Life** - Refers to our life in Heaven, where we will live forever with God.
- **Glory** - Great honor and praise
- **Sacrifice** - To give something up or make an offering, for someone else

Fill in the blanks

- 1 To give everything to God, we must have _____ from the things of this world.
- 2 Jesus was speaking to the people of the _____. He was going to offer for us.

3 Like Jesus, we should give _____ to God.

4 Those who sacrifice even their lives for Jesus, will be rewarded with _____.

Quiz

1 Whoever is willing to give up his life in this world will have what?

- A Fame and fortune
- B Eternal life
- C A statue of himself
- D Nothing

2 Where will Jesus's servant be?

- A Where Jesus is
- B Egypt
- C In the basement
- D Lost

3 Who will honor those who serve Jesus?

- A The world
- B The President
- C History books
- D The Father

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G R E C J Y L G Y Z T Y B I I
U D F K L R L G E N Y Y E E T
H D I P Z O P K E J E O C X V
C J L S R X M M O M A H F X G
M Y L Y J B H T E P Q H A C L
K I A S A C R I F I C E T G J
T F N S A A H Q S F V F H X A
I Y R T O A E V V O G O E X Y
L D E B C N H X A L X P R Q Z
K D T X I Y O M Y Y K H C T F
R C E Q D L N F S L B W Z Q Q
E N E V F O Y N M Q A L G W M
V D N Y M C W G O A F W N E H
A Z H X W Y N I K A N L E B T
D T U I N H E O V S H F H J I

DETACHMENT
ETERNAL LIFE
FATHER
GLORY
SACRIFICE
SON OF MAN

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1 Detachment
- 2 Sacrifice
- 3 Glory
- 4 Eternal Life

Quiz

- 1 B - Eternal life
- 2 A - Where Jesus is
- 3 D - The Father



