



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: It's Go Time

Text: John 12:20-34

Theme: You are saved by the cross-shaped life of Jesus to live a cross-shaped life.

Teaching Notes: "The hour" that Jesus has been waiting for has finally come: it's nearly time for him to present himself as the full and final Passover sacrifice. He must die in order to bear much fruit for eternity. He must be lifted up on a cross before he can be lifted up to his glorious, exalted status as King of the nations. And every true disciple must follow him on the path of self-denial and service.

Outline:

1. The meaning of being "lifted up."

- a. To a humiliating death.
- b. To a glorious and exalted status.

2. The judgment of being "lifted up."

- a. On the surface, the people will judge Jesus.
- b. Under the surface, God will judge Jesus.
- c. Therefore, God will judge the world and Satan.

3. The paradigm of being "lifted up."

- a. Die to yourself.
- b. Live for Jesus.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. Why do you suppose Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," as opposed to saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be humiliated and crushed"?
2. In this text, Jesus wasn't looking at the cross; rather, he was looking through the cross to the other side. Share a situation in your life where this principle is relevant right now. For example, what's a challenge or difficult act of obedience that you need to view in light of what's beyond it?
3. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. How does this Old Testament prophecy anticipate and flesh out the meaning of John 12:23-24?
4. Read Philippians 2:5-11. How does this text help you understand and interpret what Jesus was thinking in John 12:23-24?
5. Did Jesus come to save the world or to judge the world? Where does John 12:31 fit into your answer? Discuss.
6. In what ways would the cross "cast out" the ruler of this world? Practically, how is that good news for you today?
7. What does it mean to "hate your life (Greek, *psyche*) in this world" (John 12:25)? Why does Jesus call his disciples to hate their lives? What's the connection to John 12:24?
8. What are some functional ways you love your life (Greek, *psyche*) in this world? What are some day-to-day ways you love being in charge, love fitting in, love forging your own identity, love following your own hopes/dreams/impulses, love making life about you?
9. What are the four promised rewards in John 12:24-26? Which of these is the most motivating to you? How could you keep these rewards in focus when life tends to encourage you to just live for yourself here and now?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise Jesus for his wonderful, awful cross.
2. Acknowledge ways that you're pursuing the wrong kind of life or identity in this present world.
3. Ask God to be glorified in and through your life. Surrender to his lordship and invite him to bear fruit through you.