Father, Glorify Your Name

Johnathan Banning · John 12:20–28

INTRODUCTION

- What happens in this moment is Jesus is letting his disciples know that he is coming to the end of his ministry.
- These are his famous last words. And last words are important, aren't they?
- So what we have in John chapter 12 is actually the last words he ever speaks to the lost, to the world, to everyone.

1 Unless a Grain of Wheat Dies

John 12:24

- He wants to make the point that his life is like a grain of wheat.
- Because it dies, it produces something good.
- But if you leave it by itself and it avoids that death, it remains by itself. It doesn't produce anything good at all.
- None of it means anything unless I die. If I don't die, my life makes no difference at all.

2 Unless You Die, Your Life Won't Make Any Difference

John 12:25–26; Galatians 2:20; Romans 12

- He who loves his life loses it. And he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.
- So the question I want to ask you tonight is this are you dead?
- Why does he choose baptism as the means by which we become saved and have our sins washed away? Because baptism symbolizes death.
- And it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God.

3 Checklist Religion Leaves Us Only Half Dead

Galatians 2:20

- What the devil wants you to do is he wants you to look at your life as nothing more than a list of rules to keep and a list of chores to accomplish.
- Once I get done checking off all the boxes, I think the rest of my life belongs to me. And it doesn't.
- And as long as I think that there are some parts of my life that still belong to me, I haven't died yet.

4 Absolute Surrender: My Life Does Not Belong to Me

Galatians 2:20

- Whether we are 34 or 74 or 18, what we are called is we are called to absolute surrender.
- It doesn't mean I can't have fun. But it means that I recognize that nothing I have in life truly belongs to me.
- When I look at my marriage, I recognize it's not my marriage, it's God's.
- Dying to yourself is accepting that Galatians 2:20 hijacks every aspect of your life and never gives it back.

5 Dying to Yourself Bears Much Fruit

John 12:24

- The way to truly be a light in this world, the way to truly reach lost souls is to live this kind of life. That's the way we bear fruit.
- The lost people in this world, they're never going to be impressed with your checklist.
- You know what really makes a difference? Death. Radical, absolute surrender.

6 Father, Glorify Your Name

John 12:27–28; John 12:23; Ecclesiastes 5

- Now my soul has become troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. But for this purpose I have come to this hour.
- God, I want you to use my life and my body for your purposes and your glory.
- This is the highest, most honorable, most dignified, most beautiful way to live a life. Because when my life glorifies God, then I myself am glorified.
- But if you take your life and you turn it over to God, that's glory.

THE CHALLENGE

Maybe what you need to do to glorify his name is to take that first step in serving him.

MY NOTES