

## Teaching Points

Tonight we examine a conversation that took place between Jesus, some of His disciples, and a crowd. We've read several times in John's gospel that Christ's hour had not yet come. Here, finally in chapter 12, Jesus begins to speak of His hour having arrived. He says in verse 23, ***"The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified."*** Then, throughout the following conversation Jesus speaks of His soon approaching death.

**Discussion Questions:** How is Christ's death related to His glory? How does His death glorify Him?

**Thoughts:** *Christ's death is the ultimate demonstration of God's justice and mercy. At the cross, sin is punished - thereby fulfilling God's justice. At the same time, sinners are pardoned - because Christ bears the punishment for them; thereby demonstrating God's mercy. These demonstrations of God's attributes glorify Him. They vividly depict His character and nature in ways that transcend all human expressions of justice, mercy, and love. God's glory is basically His "weightiness" or "muchness" - in other words, God's glory is the shining forth of His perfections and attributes. Christ's death demonstrates these things vividly and personally.*

Jesus goes on to talk about His death in profound terms. Notice His main talking points:

1. His death will be very fruitful and productive.

***"...unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."*** (v. 24). His death will secure the salvation of millions and millions of sons and daughters of God. Praise God, the cross was not in vain! Christ's death has produced - and will produce - MUCH grain.

He says something very similar in verse 32, ***"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."*** This is the "grain" His death will produce. Saints from all over the world - ***"...out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation..."*** (Revelation 5:9). In the end - eternity will be teeming with life! Revelation 7:9 describes a scene before God's throne in which ***"...a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues..."***

This was also prophesied in the Old Testament. See Isaiah 53:11, ***"He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities."*** Not a few, but MANY will be justified through Christ's work!

2. His death is judgment.

He says in verse 31, **“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”** The Lamb conquers the dragon! The Seed of the woman crushes the head of the snake! Satan and sin received a fatal blow at the cross. What seemed like a horrific tragedy was actually a great triumphant victory for Christ. He judged the ruler of this world by dying for His peoples’ sins. Satan seeks to devour and destroy - but Christ died for His people so they would be forgiven and free.

3. His death was intentional and planned.

He knows He’s going to die. In fact, He plainly says this is WHY He put on flesh in the first place. **“...what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”** (v. 27). Jesus knows exactly what’s coming next - BECAUSE HE WROTE THE SCRIPT! He knows the mission. He knows His Father’s will. He’s fully aware that the cross will honor and glorify His Father - and this is exactly what He wants to do. See His prayer in verse 28, **“Father, glorify your name.”**

From start to finish in this conversation, Jesus speaks of His death as something He’s intimately familiar with. He knows HOW He will die (v. 33). He knows WHY He will die (vs. 28, 32). And He knows WHEN He will die (v. 23). All of these details glorify God. Every particular aspect of Christ’s death is saturated with good, holy, eternal, and glorious purpose.

**Discussion Questions:** In verse 28 the Father audibly speaks from heaven in response to Christ’s prayer. What is significant about His words at this time?

**Thoughts:** *This is the third and final time we read about the Father speaking audibly from heaven during Christ’s earthly ministry. (The other two are at His baptism (Matthew 3:17, Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22) and the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:2, Luke 9:35). All three of these occurrences are verbal affirmations from the Father to the Son. They are public and audible declarations of the Father’s eternal and perfect love for His Son. They are also commands for man to HEAR and OBEY God’s beloved Son. Keep in mind that the One who is about to be offered on the cross is well pleasing to the Father. This is why the cross will be effective. God is not satisfied with man’s “righteousnesses” (Isaiah 64:6) but He is infinitely pleased with His Son’s perfect righteousness. We are only accepted because we are found IN CHRIST - God’s eternally beloved Son (Ephesians 1:6).*

## Prayer Focus

Reflect on the love God has for you as demonstrated in His Son’s death on the cross. Never get over this! Praise Him for mercy and grace. Worship Him as your Savior and Redeemer. And trust in His wisdom and goodness. The cross always reminds us that His thoughts and ways are HIGHER than ours.