

THE KERNEL OF WHEAT

John 12:20-36

Key Verse: 12:24

1. Read verses 20-22. Who came looking for Jesus? How were they different from the crowd who welcomed Jesus? (What is characteristic of Greeks?—1 Cor 1:22-24) Who did they ask? (See Jn 6:5,6; 14:7) How did their request come to Jesus?
2. Read verses 23-26. What was Jesus' reply? (23) What did he mean "to be glorified"? Read verse 24. Why does he say, "...truth"? What does verse 24 mean to Jesus?
3. Read verses 25-26 again. What did he mean by "love his life" and "hate his life in this world"? What are the consequences of each? How is this related to serving Jesus and following him? What does Jesus' principle mean to disciples?
4. What is required of those who would serve Jesus? What promises does Jesus give to those who serve him? (26) What do these promises mean?
5. Read verses 27-29. What was Jesus' personal struggle? What was his decision and prayer topic? (Compare Jn 17:4.) How did God accept his decision? What did this decision mean to mankind? To God? To Jesus?
6. Read verses 30-33. What did it mean that Jesus would be lifted up? What did this mean to the "prince of this world"? (Compare Heb 2:14,15) To the people of the world?
7. Read verses 34-36. Did the crowd understand that Jesus was speaking of his death? What was their question? Why? What was Jesus' final invitation? (35-36) What does it mean to walk in the darkness? To walk in the light?