

Theme: Christ’s glory was not in the acclamation of the Triumphal entry; it was (and is) in the laying down of his life in submission to the Father; in his sacrifice for us and his resurrection life. Our glory will not be in recognition and affirmations of the world, but in our humble service in the Savior’s name, bringing his light into the darkness.

Background: Exuberant public reception. Receiving their king in anticipated victory. But the king comes to secure peace, not start war. **Introduction:** The moment when it all became clear.

I. The Turning Point For Jesus

A. “Greeks” to see Jesus

1. Give these Greeks an audience with Jesus?
 - a. “God-fearers”
 - b. Not told “why” they come
2. Philip wants “back-up”
 - a. Jesus came to his own
 - Matthew 10:5,6; 15:24
 - “...but his own did not receive him.” (1:11)
 - b. Takes Andrew, too

B. The world is coming to Jesus!

1. To be expected!
 - a. Old Testament hints – Psalm 67:1-3; Isaiah 2:2,3; 49:6
 - b. New Testament hints in John 3:16ff
2. Coming to see Jesus – But can they?

NOTE: They disappear from the account.

FOCUS: The world is coming to Jesus.

II. The Hour Has Come (23)

A. To be glorified!

1. He has fame
 - Fleeting acclamation, popularity, recognition
2. He seeks “glory”
 - Recognition of worth, value – *weight!*
3. The path to glory??
 - Fulfilling the Father’s will – the purpose for which he came

B. To die! (24,32,33)

1. People clearly understood what he was saying
 - a. The Messiah lives forever! He can’t die.
 - 2 Samuel 7:16; Isaiah 9:7; Ezekiel 37:25; Psalm 72:17; 89:35-37
 - b. “Who are you?”
 - Answer: The one who has power to lay down his life – and take it up again (10:18)
 - Note: Jesus doesn’t enter into that discussion/debate; calls on them to believe!

C. The gateway to life

1. Dies to bear fruit
 - Uses wheat for illustration
2. Drawing *all* people – not just Israel! (32!)
 - Jews and Gentiles

NOTE: Ministry turns from Judea to the world.

- Philip’s dilemma: jeopardize Jesus’ popularity with the people?
- The church’s dilemma: show a true understanding of and answer to racism?

III. The Path of Glory (27-32)

A. A troubled soul

1. Jesus knows what is before him
 - The cross!
2. To be lifted up! (intentionally ambiguous term) (Isaiah 52:13ff)
 - Physical? Yes
 - But exalted to his place of honor, too
3. Save me from this hour?
 - a. Terror of that prospect is real (Matthew 26:39)
 - b. Request/prayer or question?

Viewpoint? Prayer. The agony of the cross is real – but so is the confidence and assurance in God’s plans and purposes.

B. “Father, glorify your name”

1. Knows why he has come
2. His life of obedient service – brings glory to God (23)

C. The Father’s testimony – sounded like “thunder” – angels speaking??

1. “I *have* glorified it”
 - Sent his Son into the world – Incarnation, taking our flesh!
2. Will glorify it again – in his death and resurrection

ASIDE: Like Jesus’ prayer at grave of Lazarus – it’s for their sake

D. Promised victory (31,32)

1. Passing judgment
 - a. The world’s judgment of Jesus
 - b. The world is judged at the cross
2. Casting down Satan (ruler of this world)
 - His doom is sure. Enemy cast out. (Genesis 3:15)
3. Receiving judgment
 1. Bearing the punishment against sin
 2. Bearing countless “seeds” for an eternal harvest
 3. Forgiveness of sins

IV. The Path of Life

A. Loving this life? (25a)

1. Content with this life?
2. Leads to death. Lose your life.

B. Loving His life (25b)

1. “Hating” your life?
2. Seeking His glory!
3. Sharing in His glory
 - a. Through serving!
 - b. To be with him

C. Sons of light

1. The light in front of them?
 - There and gone. Not set before them forever.
2. Becoming “sons/daughters’ of light”
 - Following the light of the world