

5th. Sunday Lent B

John 12:20 -30

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:



Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and

dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that! have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.'

Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reflection:

It is now during Jesus' last week before his death on the cross. He and his disciples are in Jerusalem for Passover when some Greeks approach Philip. Why Philip? The clue is found in that John makes it a point to tell us Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee. That was very near the Decapolis, a heavily-populated area for Greeks. Because of having lived near them, Philip would no doubt know their language and be at least somewhat familiar with Greek customs. 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' They ask. He then went and told Andrew. Why Andrew? Well, every time Andrew is mentioned in John's gospel he's introducing someone to Jesus, so evidently he was very good at it. Together, they bring the Greeks to Jesus and Jesus begins talking about the inevitability of what is going to happen while they are in Jerusalem.

Jesus has already made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and never, at any point in his ministry, is he more popular than right now. So popular, in fact, that the Pharisees say, "Look, the *whole world* has gone after him!" "The *whole world*." And to prove just how true that is, these Greeks, who represent the whole world, come to have an audience with Jesus. And that is exactly what Jesus wanted. The point is clear, according to the way John frames this story. The gospel embodied in the Nazarene is not just for the Jews but for the *whole world*. John 3:16 — "For God so loved the world" — is finding its fulfilment at Calvary. "The hour has come," Jesus says, "for the Son of Man to be glorified." "The hour has come."

As we make our journey with Christ to the cross, God continues to whisper in our ear. And if we listen very carefully, what we will hear are words of love. When our time is fulfilled, whatever and whenever that may be, we will find ourselves wholly and completely in the presence of the One who loves us beyond all others. Seems to me, that's a good word for us to hear. Let us hope and pray that indeed God will whisper in our ear in God's own good time.

Prayer:

Lord, whisper to us your will, and find us willing and receptive to hear what you have to say. Better yet, find us faithful in taking your hand and walking with you into a time and place we have yet to know.