



Week 19
Discussion Questions

Text: John 12:20-50

Icebreaker: If you had to describe your week as weather, what kind of weather did you experience and why would you describe it that way?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. Throughout these verses there are several call-backs to previous things Jesus has said or claims he has made in John. One way these references have been described is as "hyperlinks". When you see it in this passage, it is meant to link you back to what was revealed previously, and the expectation is that those things would be in your mind now. What looks familiar in this passage, where have you seen it before in John, and what does John (or Jesus) expect you to have in mind as you hear Jesus' words now?
 1. "The hour has come..." (v.12:23) vs "the hour has not yet come" (John 2:4; 4:23; 5:25; and 7:6)
 2. Eternal life (v. 12:25) compared to John 3:16; 4:13-14; 5:24; 6:40-51; 11:25-26
 3. Glory also found in John 5:43-47; 7:16-19
 4. "Lifted up" found in John 3 and 8
 5. "Light and darkness" found elsewhere in John 3
 6. "Judgement" in John 3, 5, and 8
 7. "Belief" throughout the book.
3. Look back at John 2:4; 4:23; 5:25; and 7:6. What difference do you notice from these texts and what we read in John 12:20-50?

Throughout the book of John, Jesus is anticipating "the hour" that *will* come, but now we have come to the point in the story when Jesus changes His language and announces that "the hour has come." There is a transition from anticipation of to arrival of "the hour."
4. What is the "hour" Jesus references in these passages? (Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Dan.7:13-14)

The hour that has come is Jesus' crucifixion. His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sin and the redemption of the world.

5. How is the word "glory" used today in our everyday language?
"It was *glorious!*", "The house was restored to its former *glory*", "He *gloried* in their victory." You might look up a dictionary definition and discuss the common definitions and how the word is used.
6. How does the Bible use the word "glory"? What differences are there between its everyday use and the biblical use? (Ex. 40:34-35; Ps. 19:1; Ps. 115:1; Rom. 3:23; Rev. 5:12)
In the Bible, glory is most often used of or directed toward God. The source and object of glory is God, not us.
7. Within this passage, Jesus reveals the purposes for which He came to earth. List the various reasons he claims and discuss how this is connected to his invitation to follow him?
1. To be glorified.
 2. To be followed.
 3. To die (he asks to be saved from the hour, his purpose).
 4. To draw people to Himself.
 5. To bring light to the darkness.

The purpose Jesus came was to take on death Himself, so that we could be restored to relationship with God and to live as we were intended from the beginning, as His Image. Jesus makes a way to restore our ability to be the Image—which is to imitate Jesus himself. Following Jesus has everything to do with our purpose as image bearers.

8. In what way is God glorified through Jesus' death?
In Jesus sacrifice, God's grace and judgment are manifested, and God's great purpose is revealed. The character of God is put on display, and therefore we experience God's glory in Jesus death.
9. Reflect on the various characters in this passage. What do their intents and actions reveal about whose glory they are seeking?
Mary's sacrificial act reveals her willingness to bring glory to Jesus over herself.
Judas' selfish response/actions reveals his intent to bring glory to himself.
10. Be honest with yourself: whose glory have you been seeking lately?
11. With Jesus' example in mind, what does it mean for you to glorify God? What is one concrete way this can glorify God in your life this week as you seek to follow Him?