

JESUS A KERNEL OF WHEAT

John 12:20-50

Key Verses: 12:23-24

“Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.’”

1. Who came looking for Jesus, and why was this significant (20-22; 11:52)? Read verses 23-24. How would Jesus be glorified? How did Jesus describe the meaning of his death (24)? What potential is in a kernel of wheat, and how is it realized?
2. How did Jesus apply the principle of the kernel of wheat to all people, including his disciples (25-26)? What does it mean to “love your life,” and to “hate your life”? What promise does Jesus give to those who serve him?
3. What troubled Jesus’ soul (27a; Lk 22:42-44)? What was Jesus’ prayer and how did the Father reply (27b-30)? After he prayed, what vision did he speak of (31-33)?
4. What hindered the crowd from accepting Jesus’ teaching (34; Isa 9:7; Dan 7:13-14)? What was Jesus’ final invitation (35-36)?
5. What was the response of the Jewish leaders to Jesus, and how does John explain it (37-40)? How did Isaiah see Jesus’ glory (41)? Why did many Jewish leaders who believed not proclaim it publicly (42-43)?
6. How did Jesus’ cry invite people to overcome their inner darkness and trust in God (44-46)? Why does Jesus not judge those who hear his words but do not keep them (47-49)? What confidence does Jesus have in God’s word (50)?