

A Kernel of Wheat

John 12:20-50

Key Verse: 12:24

1. THE KERNEL OF WHEAT

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? 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?

2. 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? 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?

3. 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? 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?

4. 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?

2. HIS COMMAND LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE

5. Read verses 37-41. What was the continuing response of the Jewish leaders to the miraculous signs which Jesus did in their presence? How did their unbelief fulfill the words of Isaiah? ([37,38]; Isa 53:1; Isa 6:10; [39-40]) What did Isaiah teach about this unbelief and rejection of Jesus? What does unbelief do to men's hearts and eyes? What do those who reject Jesus miss?

6. Read verse 41. How did Isaiah see and write about Jesus' glory? (Isa 53:3-6) How does the Jewish unbelief reveal God's sovereignty? Read verses 42-43. Why did some who believed in him not confess their faith? (Compare 5:44) What can we learn here about the reason for unbelief? From a human point of view, why don't men believe—commit themselves to Jesus? How does the rejection and unbelief actually testify to the truthfulness of the gospel?

7. Read verses 44-46. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? What does it mean that Jesus has come into the world as the light? How can we come out of the darkness and live in the light? What are the elements of darkness? How can we seek God? (Compare 1:4,9; 3:19-21; 9:5; 8:12; 14:8-9) Read verses 47-50. Why does Jesus not judge the person who hears his words but does not keep them? What does Jesus say about why he came? What did Jesus believe about God's word? Why did he refuse to judge those who rejected his word? How did he reveal his personal commitment to God and to his word? What happens when one accepts Jesus and his word? (50,40) When one does not?