

## TUESDAY, MARCH 27

JESUS SAYS “YES” (JOHN 12:20-36)

The hour has finally arrived.

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus said that the hour had not yet come. When talking with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus said that the hour was still on its way. Twice, people became very angry with Jesus, but no one seized him in the temple because the hour was not right.

Now, though, the hour has finally arrived. Soon, Jesus will be betrayed, arrested, tried, convicted, beaten, and executed. This hour, this moment in time is the climax of each of the four gospels in the New Testament. Matthew points out how this hour fulfills Old Testament prophecies from centuries before Jesus. Mark’s narrative describes how Jesus moved quickly and urgently toward the cross. Luke shows how deliberately Jesus traveled to Jerusalem in order that this hour would occur. John spends fully half of his gospel detailing what happened in Jesus’s life during these final days. The hour has finally arrived, and Jesus is completely dedicated to his task.

Jesus demonstrates his holiness of purpose in today’s passage. He is fully dedicated to the mission of God, even to the point of laying down his life. But what is God’s mission? A quick survey:

Some Greeks want to meet Jesus: these non-Jews will be welcomed into the family of God.

Parable of the kernel of wheat: Jesus’s life will multiply and spread to other people.

Jesus is troubled and prays: everything that will happen to Jesus is for God’s glory.

Judgment is coming, and all will be drawn to Jesus: the work of Jesus will be universal in scope.

Trust in the light: even though the darkness is coming, God’s people will find hope and guidance in Jesus.

Jesus has had a crystal-clear vision of God’s mission throughout his life. Now that the hour of his death is drawing close, he leans into his purpose with all his being – even though it is not always easy for him, even though he experiences doubt and fear. He says “yes” to the call of God, “yes” to the mission of God, “yes” to the love and righteousness of God. He says “yes” all the way to his final breath. His last words on the cross, as recorded by John, are these: “It is finished.”

The life of a disciple of Jesus is intended to mirror Jesus's life in meaningful, transformative ways. The risks of discipleship are not merely metaphorical: Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow him (Matthew 16:24).

Discipleship carries with it a sense of wholehearted devotion that is neither pessimistic nor fatalistic but rather full of opportunities to show great courage by saying "yes" to the mission of God. Our pursuit of holiness can be measured by the moments in which we choose to imitate Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. When we live the life of Jesus, shine the light of Jesus, and serve others with the love of Jesus, then we are living holy lives.

Take careful note, though, that even Jesus's heart was troubled as he considered what was required of him. If your heart is burdened by God's call to holiness, then you are in good company!

How is God calling you to say "yes" to his mission?