

John 12:20-33 Seeing Jesus
Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18, 2018

John 12:20-33

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.”

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours.

³¹“Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

Seeing Jesus

I.

Certain people develop a reputation. When a president or other super-high-profile person comes to town, everybody wants to meet them, to hear them speak, to see what all the buzz is about. Often there is so much hype that you know the reality has to be different from what everyone has been saying. The old saying goes: “seeing is believing,” so you just want to see for yourself.

“Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival” (John 12:20, EHV). It was Passover time. Many, many people made the trek to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. A certain group of believers of non-Jewish descent were among those who went to worship in Jerusalem for this particular Passover celebration.

They had heard that a guy who had developed a certain reputation was among those celebrating the Passover Festival in Jerusalem. In fact, it was the talk of the town. This Jesus came riding in to Jerusalem with crowds of people lining the streets and shouting “Hosanna!” You really couldn’t *miss* the fact that Jesus was in town.

It was now a couple of days later—Tuesday, to be exact—and this group of Greeks was seeking Jesus out. “They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, ‘Sir, we want to see Jesus’” (John 12:21, EHV). Philip had a Greek name, so he seemed to be approachable, even though they didn’t know him, either, so they addressed him respectfully: “Sir, we want to see Jesus.”

I’ll bet a lot of people wanted to see what all the buzz surrounding Jesus was about. Perhaps that’s why so many people lined the way and threw palm branches out in front of his donkey or put their cloaks in the path—the One who’s reputation preceded him had