

AN ESSENTIAL LAW OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESS

JOHN 12:20-26

I. CERTAIN OPPORTUNISTIC GREEKS WERE PURSUING CHRIST HOPING TO BENEFIT FROM THE CONTACT (12:20-22)

II. TRUE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS SPRINGS ONLY FROM SACRIFICIAL LOSS (12:23-26)

A. It Was Essential To Understand This Law In Order To Comprehend The Significance And Necessity Of What Christ Would Do Just A Few Days Later (12:23-24)

1. It Was Necessary For Christ's Own Glorification (12:23)

- a. He Had, At That Time Been In A State Of Humiliation
- b. Both Testaments Taught That Suffering Would Precede Glory As Far As Messiah Was Concerned

2. Christ's "*Hour*" Had Finally Come (12:23)

- a. His Earthly Mother Had Previously Overlooked The Suffering Part Which Had To Precede Glorification
- b. Just A Day Earlier, A Fever Pitched Crowd Tried To Instigate A Messianic Coronation, Ignoring The Suffering

3. The Timeless Truth Is Illustrated In The Destiny Of A "*Corn Of Wheat*" (12:24)

- a. Death Before Glory
- b. Death Before Fruit

B. It Was Essential To Understand This Law In Order To Be Personally Benefited By What He Was Going To Do So That One Could Actually Serve The Lord After Salvation (12:25-26)

1. The Paradox Is Astounding (12:25)

2. Dying Daily Is The Key To Discipleship (12:26)