

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

The Gospel of John

John 12:20–36

Read John 12:20–36.

1. What does Jesus announce in verse 23?

2. Look up the meaning of glory. What do verses 23–24 and 32–33 tell us will be a critical (but surprising) part of Jesus’ glorification?

3. What other related events complete his glorification? (Note the double meaning of the phrase “lifted up” in verse 32.)

Acts 2:24

Phil. 2:9; Heb. 1:3b

4. Death by crucifixion would seem at first glance to be anything but glorious, but this passage gives us glimpses of some of the glorious things Jesus’ death will bring about. What are they?

v. 24

v. 28

v. 31a

v. 31b (📖* 1 Jn. 3:8b)

v. 32

5. In the word picture Jesus gives in verse 24, he himself is the seed that must die. What kind of “crop” does Jesus’ death produce? (Jn. 3:16; Rev. 5:9–10; 7:9–10)

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

6. Verse 24 describes the way Jesus brings life to others through his death. Similarly, his servants must undergo a sort of death to experience true life (vv. 25–26).
 - a. What do you think Jesus means by loving one’s life? What does this look like?
 - b. What do you think “hating” one’s life looks like?
 - c. What rewards does serving Jesus bring? (vv. 25–26)
7. As Jesus looks ahead to his death on the cross, “[his] heart is troubled” (v. 27)—that is, he feels “revulsion, horror, anxiety, agitation.”¹ In the face of such unimaginable suffering, what does Jesus resolutely pray in verse 28a?
8. The Father answers Jesus’ prayer from above (v. 28b).
 - a. How has the Father already glorified his own name through Jesus? (Jn. 8:28–29; Acts 2:22)
 - b. How will the Father glorify his name again? (Jn. 17:4; 19:30; Col. 1:19–20)
9. When Jesus states in verse 32 that he will “draw all men” to himself, he does not mean literally every person. What does he mean? (vv. 19–22; Jn. 11:51–52; Is. 49:6)
10. What expectation does the crowd have for the Christ, or Messiah? (v. 34)
11. Jesus warns the crowd that he will be with them “just a little while longer” (v. 35).
 - a. What are the two possible responses the people can have to Jesus, the “light of the world” (9:5)? (vv. 35–36)
 - b. What are the consequences of each? (vv. 35–36)
12. Consider the trust it took for Jesus to allow himself to be crucified and cut off from the Father, with only God’s promise that there would be glory in the suffering, and resurrection and exaltation on the other side of it.

In what areas do you struggle to “hate your life” -- lay down your goals, your enjoyment, your plans--in order to “keep it for eternal life” (v. 25)?

How could knowing God’s character and promise free you to do this?

¹ D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*. The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991), 440.