

*(Inside the Bulletin)*  
**Carrying the Cross: The Example of Christ**

John 12

<sup>20</sup> Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. <sup>21</sup> Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

<sup>22</sup> Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. <sup>25</sup> He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

**One sentence summary of sermon:  
To see Jesus truly is to focus on His sacrifice; to appropriate the meaning of that sacrifice, and embody that sacrifice, is truly to live.**

Outline

A. Introduction:

The occasion of the Greeks' question of Christ;

B. A Great Definition;  
*(A grain of wheat must die)*

C. A Great Distinction:

There are two types of life stemming from two different Greek words in this verse. One Greek word is *psyche* (soul-life). The other Greek word for life is *zoe* (the life vitally connected to God).

D. A Great Display;  
*(Lifted up)*

E. A Great Difference

1. Seeing Christ through His sacrifice is salt and light for society as a whole.
2. Seeing Christ through His sacrifice is fresh power for every individual.

*(outside the Bulletin)*

But everyone who lined the streets had a different reason for waving those palms. Some were political activists; they'd heard Jesus had supernatural power, and they wanted him to use it to free Israel from Roman rule. Others had loved ones who were sick or dying. They waved branches, hoping for physical healing. Some were onlookers merely looking for something to do, while others were genuine followers who wished Jesus would establish himself as an earthly king. Jesus was the only one in the parade who knew why he was going to Jerusalem - to die. He had a mission, while everyone else had an agenda.

- Bill Hybels

Practically everyone has known the taste of Palm Sunday, the sweetness of success and popularity, and nearly all of us have tasted the bitterness of Good Friday, of failure and rejection. What saves us from an endless round of ups and downs, what frees us from the tyranny of events over which we have no control is our commitment to press forward in obedience to God -it is trust in God's love to bring about Easter morning, - knowing that the meaning of life is to be found in the knowledge and love of God,- and in sharing that knowledge and love with those who accompany us on the way.

- Rev. Richard J. Fairchild