

## WEEK 10

### 18. Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save Me from this hour"? John 12:20-28 (NKJV)

#### Jesus Predicts His Crucifixion

<sup>20</sup> Now some Greeks were among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> So they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and requested of him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus."<sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied to them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> " I assure you: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces a large crop. <sup>25</sup> The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me. Where I am, there My servant also will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.<sup>27</sup> "Now My soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save Me from this hour? But that is why I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify Your name!" Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again!" John 12:20-28 (HCSB)

#### A Grain of Wheat Must Die

There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?" Philip went and told Andrew, Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal. "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves. Me. "Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? "Father, get me out of this? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, "Father, put your glory on display." A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again." John 12:20-27 (The Message)

#### *Reflections:*

How many of you have ever tried to run away as a child? I think I might have as a child, but I never acted on it. It would have been easy for Jesus to run away or to ask God to take it away what faced Him. But Jesus was obedient to the Father's will and became the sacrifice for all.

There aren't too many things to which I would give up my life. I remember an experience when my wife and I went to the State Fair and I parked on a side street not wanting to pay for parking. When we walked back to our car, there were two young men walking a few yards in front of us. When we got to our car, they turned around and one produced a gun which looked like a semi-automatic. However, I thought at the moment that it was not a "real" gun. It was dark and I really didn't know. Somehow, I remained calm. The other guy approached and asked how much money I had. My response was, "You don't want to do this." My wife had gone around her side of the car. He asked for her to come to us. She realized what was happening and deliberately dropped her purse on the ground, but he saw it and told her to bring it with her. She did. When we stooped down to grab the purse, I grabbed his hand and immediately took my wife's hand (with the purse) and told her to follow me. We quickly walked away. I think this must have taken them by surprise, because they quickly ran away. I sometimes wonder, "What if it had been a real gun and what if I had been shot?" "Would that have been worth losing my life?"

I so glad that Jesus chose not to walk away. He chose to take on my sin and the world's sin. We can only praise God for this glorious gift.

#### *Questions to Ponder:*

- a. What are you willing to die for?
- b. What are you willing to sacrifice to follow Jesus?
- c. What did Jesus mean when He said "the one who loves his life will lose it?"

#### *Prayer*

Lord, give us the courage to face our greatest fears and choose to follow You.