

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) Are you facing some situations in your own life where your “soul is troubled?” Jesus Christ faced the same type of situation in His walk with God when he was confronted with “the hour” of His glorification (John 12:27). Share with your group some of the situations/events in your life which are giving your soul turmoil and trouble.
- B) Jesus asks a theoretic question in John 12:27 about His Father, God, saving His life from “the hour.” Jesus never actually even prays this prayer, but it does cross His mind. Do these kinds of questions cross your mind? What do you do with? We are naturally self-preservational people, are there situations where our self-preservation is actually the opposite/against God’s will?
- C) Jesus’ response to His difficulty is to ask God to glorify His name. This is a profound response to difficulty in life! What are some of the other reactions which Christ could have had which still would have seemed “spiritual” but would have fallen short of total vulnerability to God’s glory?
- D) Let’s turn the focus on ourselves now... What are the situations you are facing in your life right now, the difficulties and struggles which weigh you down (Q. #1). What would it look like, in your own life, for you to ask God to glorify His name in those situations? What are some of the possible outcomes? What are some of the possible results?
- E) Take some time to share some of those key situations with one another, and then take some time to pray with one another. It is important to have solid prayer support and accountability for/with each other when we are facing life’s difficulties. Take some time before your group ends to pick at least one other person who will receive a phone call from you to check-in and get an update for prayer in their life situation. Support one another with grace and prayer -- trust in God’s glory to be revealed in your group!

The Voice Of Light

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 22nd, 2005 • Pastor Chris Lankford

JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “THIS VOICE HAS NOT COME FOR MY SAKE, BUT FOR YOUR SAKES. “NOW JUDGMENT IS UPON THIS WORLD; NOW THE RULER OF THIS WORLD WILL BE CAST OUT. “AND I, IF I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL MEN TO MYSELF.”
~JOHN 12:30-32 (NASB)

1) What Do We Do In Troubling Times?

- A) The Greeks (Gentiles/non-Jews) have come seeking Jesus Christ (12:20-22). Significantly, Jesus reveals to His disciples that “the hour” for His glorification has finally come (12:23).
- B) Jesus is deeply troubled by the arrival of “the hour” (12:27). His soul is in turmoil, and this turmoil is agonizingly continuous (perfect verb form indicates continuing effect).
- C) Jesus contemplates, in a theoretical manner, if He should want what is naturally human in this situation (12:27). Should He pursue the path of least resistance, least pain, most convenience, least personal risk?
- D) The NIV renders the theoretic nature of the question well with, “...what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’

No..." (John 12:27, NIV). The clause negates the original question and asserts a "superior" solution.

- E) The superior solution which Christ proposes is His purpose for existence, this why He has come to earth, this is the central reason for Christ to face "the hour."

2) Meaning In The Midst Of Trials

- A) Jesus calls (out-loud) for God to glorify His name (12:28).

"Glorify" means to reveal the character of something or someone, to exalt their moral characteristics, to recognize their superiority in some way.

"Name" is representative of the whole person, the entire character of the person, all of a person is summarized by their "name."

Jesus is calling on God to "reveal the fullness of who You are."

- B) God Himself answers Jesus Christ verbally (only time in the book of John -- 12:28), affirming that He has glorified His name (incarnation of Christ), and will do it again (death and resurrection of Jesus Christ).
- C) God's answer reveals that wherever Jesus Christ, is accomplishing God's will, the glory of God will be present. Is God's glory present in your life, in your circumstances, in your difficulties, in your life?

3) Astounding Misunderstanding/Translation

- A) Jesus Christ is the only one who can "hear" the voice of God!

The crowd thinks it has thundered (must have been a cloudy day), or that an angel has spoken to Jesus (sounded like something intelligible -- 12:29).

- B) Jesus clarifies (translates) that the voice of God had not come for His sake (to help Jesus), but for the sake of other people (to help them -- 12:30). How would it help the people?

4) The Effects Of The "Next" Glorification

- A) Jesus lists four effects of God glorifying His name "again." Clearly, this "next" glorification is the death of Jesus (12:33). These are the things which are accomplished by His death.
- B) First, God was bringing "judgment" to the world (12:31). The glory of God (Jesus Christ) caused a separation of people into the "light" or "dark," to follow Jesus or reject Jesus.
- C) Second, Satan would be cast out (12:31). Satan's power was crushed on the cross. Sin and death, powerful allies of Satan, would be defeated by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross.
- D) Third, Christ would be taken from the earth to Heaven (12:32). This might sound like bad news, but (as will be revealed in further teaching in John 14), Christ's removal means the arrival of the Holy Spirit (God in His followers).
- E) Finally, Christ's sacrifice would draw all men (Jews and non-Jews alike) to Himself (12:32). All those who would trust in Jesus Christ would become "sons of Light" (12:35-36).