

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

(Jerry Fite)

Great excitement stirred in the hearts of many as Jesus made His way to Jerusalem. The common people traveled the 1 ½ mile distance to Bethany to meet not only Him, but see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead (*John 12:9*). Eyewitness accounts of Jesus calling Lazarus out of the tomb moved multitudes in Jerusalem to meet Jesus as He approached the city from the east (*John 12:17-18*). The hills of the Mount of Olives echoed joyous praise as people traveled with Jesus from Bethany (*Luke 19:37-38*). No doubt the sound of “*Hosanna: blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel*” escalated as the multitude coming to Jerusalem joined a great multitude of people coming from Jerusalem. Meeting and seeing Jesus, the great miracle worker and king was the focus of many.

Not only did Jews want to see Jesus, but “Greeks” desired to meet Him. These Gentiles were apparently “proselytes” to the Jewish faith, for they had come to Jerusalem “to worship at the feast” (*John 12:20*). These worshippers of the one true God approached the apostle Philip saying, “*Sir we would see Jesus*” (*John 12: 21*). Philip tells

Andrew of the request and both approached Jesus. We do not know if the Greek worshippers of God succeeded in seeing Jesus, but we do know how Jesus wanted to be viewed.

Jesus, apparently addressing His two apostles, pointed out that He is about to be glorified by the Father. He says, “*The hour is come that the Son of man should be glorified*” (*John 12:23*). But this glory was not the accolades of men’s praises, but the terrifying reality of the cross. The humble king, who possibly struck a humble pose with legs barely clearing the ground as he rode the back of a young donkey into Jerusalem, now encourages all to see Him lifted on a cross.

He says, “*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself*” (*John 12:32*). Jesus wanted his death viewed as a grain of wheat falling to the ground to die (*John 12:24*). If it abides without being planted, it will not produce fruit. But in the ground, the seed germinates much fruit. Jesus, through His death, would save many who are drawn to Him through His loving sacrifice on the cross.

How does Jesus characterize His followers? They view

eternal life more valuable than life on earth. They are willing to lose this life to keep eternal life. In Jesus’s words, “*He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life*” (*John 12:25*). Jesus views his followers as those who serve Him. Jesus says, “*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*” (*John 12:26*). Jesus’ emphasis is on serving. How can one serve the Lord when apart from Him? Examine the picture: serving Jesus will have you at His footsteps, constantly serving. Being such a servant, see yourself also as being honored by the Father.

Jesus wants us to see Him as illuminating light. Jesus knew He was soon to depart by dying on the cross. Jesus urges the multitude, listening in on Jesus speaking with His apostles, to view Him as the light of day and ourselves as taking advantage of the illuminating sunlight by walking in its light, while the light is still with us. (*John 12:35*). Jesus sees the wise believing on the light so they can become sons of light (*John 12:36*). To all who want to see Jesus, this is how Jesus wants to be seen and how He views His true followers.