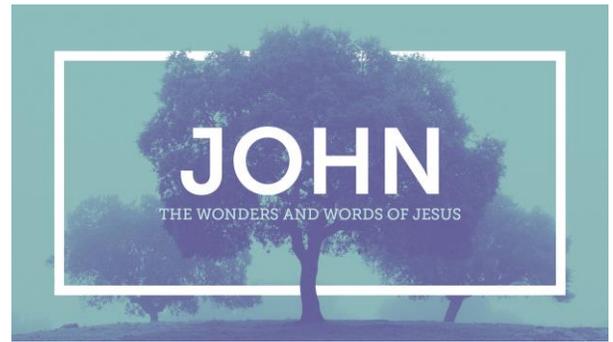


This Week's Scripture: John 12:20-26 (Surrender Guarantees Victory)

Feet to Faith Review: Did anyone identify any changes in their lives that needed to be changed to advertise their love of Jesus?

Main Points Today:

1. Jesus's death won a victory over death that is available to all who believe.
2. Ironic Truths & how they apply to Jesus, Our Salvation & Our Daily Lives.
 - a. To die is to gain life
 - b. To lose is to win
 - c. To surrender is victory. (vs. 24-25)
3. God will Honor Those Who Serve and Follow Jesus



Introduction: Irony is defined as "...a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects." Share a notable example of irony you have experienced in your life? What was the ultimate result of that experience?

Discussion Point 1 (Jesus's death won a victory over death that is available to all who believe)

I remember struggling for many years to grasp the concept that salvation is available to everyone. Specifically, for me was the thought that those in this world who committed major crimes all their lives (i.e. murder, rape, terrorism, etc.) could still have salvation available to them...even in the last minutes of their life.

How do you reconcile or explain salvation being available to such people?

Now consider being the victim of such a crime. Is salvation and entry into Heaven what you would pray and seek for the criminal?

Discussion Point 2 (Ironic Truths & How they apply to Jesus, our Salvation and our Daily Lives)

Most of the teachings in scripture are in opposition of our human (sinful) nature. Speak to how you understand these truth's and how they apply to Jesus as our example, how they apply to our Salvation and how they apply to our Daily Lives?

- To die is to gain life
- To lose is to win
- To surrender is to be victorious

Discussion Point 3: (God will Honor Those Who Serve and Follow Jesus)

****READ John 12:26****

- How could someone serve Jesus and yet, not follow him?
- Why must serving and following go hand in hand?
- What are the different ways in which God could, or has, honored your commitment and service to Jesus?

Living It Out

Is there someone in your life that you have been negatively affected by? Work this week in prayer and petition to find forgiveness for them. If they are not a believer, pray for Jesus to find a way into their lives...possibly through you.

Also, consider ways in your life today that you have been seeking a better life, a big win, or victory over something. Then ask yourself if your method is that of the Bible's teaching, or of your pride and desire. Consider how you could apply one of today's ironical truths to the situation, and see if turning the situation over to God doesn't turn out to be the path to victory.
