

**Following Jesus
Lay Down Your Life
John 12:23-36**

I. Message

a. The principle: Jesus promised eternal profit for giving one's life to others

- i. Jesus saw His own death as a precursor to glory
 1. "23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified."
 2. The moment (hour) had come
 3. The disciples were still in denial
 4. But Jesus was adamant
 - a. "I am about to die"
 - b. "And it will result in my glorification"
- ii. He illustrates – v.24:
 1. "24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a [kernel] of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit."
 2. A kernel of wheat has to give up its life to leave a legacy
- iii. Similarly
 1. "25 He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal."
 2. If a person selfishly lives their life for themselves, they lose
 3. At the end of their 70+/- years, they have themselves – v.25
 4. BUT, if a person "hates" his life
 - a. Comparative word
 - b. In comparison to how much effort he spends on self
 - c. He lives his life for the eternal good of others (lays down His own life)
 - d. "He dies with a dirtiest towel wins"
 - e. That person keeps on living in others far after he/she is gone
 - f. He leaves an eternal legacy that far outlives himself

b. The pattern: Jesus was the greatest demonstration of giving one's life for others

- i. "32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33 This he said, signifying what death he should die."
- ii. Jesus knew what was coming for Him
 1. He had been very strategic in His exposure to the religious leaders
 2. He knew they would be the ones to call for His execution
 3. He also knew the religious leaders couldn't legally execute Him
 - a. It would have to be the Romans

- b. And their favorite way of killing Jewish criminals:
crucifixion on a cross
 - c. “Lifting them up” – **John 3:14**
 - d. He was going to be crucified (the kernel that must die)
 - e. To draw all men to Himself (to give life to billions)
 - f. One dies and leaves an eternal legacy of fruit
 - g. Jesus is the greatest demonstration of giving ones’ life for
the benefit of others (and eternal investment)
- c. The practice: Believers in Jesus follow His example of giving one’s life**
- i. “35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walks in darkness knows not where he goes.”
 - ii. You’ve got an example for a little bit
 - iii. Follow my example
 - iv. When He referred to “the light”, they knew He was referring to Himself
 - 1. **John 8:12**
 - 2. **John 9:5**
 - a. “36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.”
 - b. I’m not staying around forever
 - c. You have a limited window
 - i. **So, start by believing in me**
 - ii. **Then follow my example (be the children of light)**

II. Conclusions

- a. **Have you believed in Jesus?**
- b. **Believers, are you seeking to follow Jesus’ example of self-sacrifice?**