

The Cure to Loneliness

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I. Introduction. Text: John 12:20-26.

II. Jesus said to His disciples that His hour had come for the first time in the narrative.

A. The program of Jesus' life was in the Father's hand.

1. Jesus did not realize that the Greeks were coming to Him, but when they did, He acknowledged that it was in the Father's program.

2. We are not to complain, but to recognize God's program at work.

B. Jesus knew why these men came because He knew the Scriptures that the Messiah was to be a light unto the Gentiles even though He came to minister to Israel.

1. If we understand the Scriptures, we can understand what God is doing in our lives.

2. Seeing what God is doing day by day is one of the most exciting adventures there is.

III. Important declarations.

A. The principle by which Jesus lived His own life.

1. Jesus is the grain of wheat among men--unique and different.

2. People sensed that He possessed the secrets of life.

3. Jesus did not need to lay down His life, but if He had not He would not have been fulfilled.

4. The problem that affects many of us is loneliness.

5. Loneliness is unfulfilled incomplete life.

6. The pursuit of self-satisfaction results in the unsatisfied life.

7. Life only comes by dying.

B. The application of the principle to everyone else.

1. The one who loves his life will lose it, but the one who loses his life will find it.

2. Loneliness is caused by the hoarding of life.

3. The believer must hate the life that the world lives, which is self-centeredness.

4. Dying means repudiating the security, that relying upon others gives.

C. The process of this principle.

1. One must follow Jesus--the person must face loneliness in order to gain divine fellowship.

2. The cure to loneliness is the discovery of another relationship.

Application questions:

1. Why did Jesus find contentment in whatever happened to Him even when He did not realize when those things would happen?

2. How is loneliness related to fulfilling one's calling?

3. How would you counsel someone who was struggling with loneliness? In addition, how could you reach out and meet that person's need?
