

SEEING JESUS

John 12:12-23

A. The Setting

1. John 12 records the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry.
2. Thousands of Jews had gathered for Passover from many places.
3. They had come to celebrate one of the most important events in Jewish life.
4. And in the middle of all of this activity, some people came wanting to see Jesus.
5. Gentiles, outsiders to the Jewish nation, had come because they were seeking God.
6. And somehow, they had become convinced that Jesus was worth seeing.
7. Their request gives us three important truths about the seeking heart.

B. The Heart Cry Of All People

1. John deliberately tells us that these were Greeks, & they had come seeking God.
2. This reminds us that the gospel is all people.
3. John 3:16 tells us that Jesus came for the whole world.
4. The gospel crosses every barrier. – national, gender, financial, age, social status.
5. Everyone needs Jesus.
6. They were searching for something more
7. Greek culture was famous for its philosophers and intellectual achievements.
8. But human wisdom could not answer the deepest questions of the human heart.
9. Philosophy can ask: “What is truth?” Jesus said “I am the Truth....”— John 14:6
10. Philosophy can speculate about God. - Jesus reveals God.
11. Philosophy can discuss morality - Jesus transforms the sinner.
12. Philosophy can talk about death - Jesus offers resurrection and eternal life.
13. These Greeks had been searching, and now they had heard about Jesus.
14. Whatever they had heard, they wanted more. “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.”
15. Their request reminds us every human has the same fundamental spiritual need.
16. Romans 3:23 says: The problem is universal. All have sinned.
17. Romans 10:13 says: the good news is also universal.
18. There is one Saviour for all people—Jesus Christ.

C. The Heart Cry Of Those Seeking Something Beyond Religion

1. These Greeks had come to the feast—but they were still seeking
2. There is something especially interesting about these Greeks.
3. They had come to Jerusalem, to the Passover, to worship. They were searching.
4. Their religious activity had not satisfied the deepest need of their hearts.
5. That is an important warning for us. Religion cannot save us.
6. Religious activity is not the same thing as a relationship with Jesus Christ.
7. Many People Are Religious but Still Lost
8. There are many people sitting in churches who are the same as these Greeks.
9. They know the hymns, the prayers, the language of Christianity.
10. They may be baptized, members, attend faithfully, give generously.
11. And yet they have never personally trusted Christ.

12. We must never confuse being around Jesus with knowing Jesus.
13. Salvation Is Not Accomplished Through Ritual
14. John 1:12–13 reminds us that those who receive Christ become children of God.
15. New birth is not accomplished through human effort. Only Jesus saves.
16. We must get beyond religion to relationship with a living Saviour.
17. We do not simply believe certain things about Jesus, we believe & trust in Jesus.

D. The Heart Cry Of All Who Seek Reality In The Lives Of Christians

1. Notice what the Greeks did, they came to a Christian.
2. Knowingly or not, the Greeks looked to the followers of Jesus as a bridge to Jesus.
3. That is a tremendous responsibility, even today. People are watching us.
4. If someone said: “I would like to see Jesus in your life.” What would they see?
5. Would they see someone who responds differently because Christ lives in them?
6. The world may never read the Bible. But people are reading us.
7. Our lives are often the first Christian “sermon” some people will ever encounter.
8. The World Wants to See Jesus Through His People (Matthew 5:16)
9. The purpose of our light is to glorify God, to point people to Christ. — John 3:30
10. If people are going to see Jesus in us, what should they see?
11. They should see His love, forgiveness, humility, holiness, faithfulness, joy & peace.
12. “I don't understand everything, but I know Jesus, and I know He is with me.”

E. The Greatest Question: Do Others See Jesus In You?

1. The words of these Greeks can become our own spiritual invitation.
2. The Greeks came to Philip and said: “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.”
3. Could someone come to you with the same desire? Would they see Jesus in you?
4. In your attitude toward others? In every aspect of your life.
5. The world is still searching, looking for hope, searching for something real.
6. And God has placed us among them. Perhaps someone near you needs to see Jesus.
7. We cannot save anyone. But we can point them to the One who can.
8. Our lives should say: “Don't look at me—look at Jesus.”
9. Would they see something in your life that made them want to know Christ?
10. Or would your life make it harder for them to believe?

F. CONCLUSION

1. There are really two questions in this passage.
2. Would you see Jesus?
3. If you have never trusted Him, look to Him today.
4. He is the One who died for your sins.
5. He is the One who rose again & offers forgiveness & eternal life.
6. Would souls seeking Jesus see Him in you?
7. The world is still searching, asking questions, looking for hope.
8. “Come and see Jesus.” For He alone is worthy.
9. And may the prayer of every Christian be: “Lord, let them see Jesus in us.”