

John 12:20-26. Some Greeks Desire to See Jesus.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

Jesus' love for Gentiles and his promise of eternal glory encourage us to trust in him and be faithful unto death.

Scripture: Matthew 8:5

Topics: "Gentile Inclusion", "Eternal Presence"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer reflects on the desire of the Greeks to see Jesus, highlighting their Gentile background and the obstacles they faced in approaching the Lord. Despite doubts, Jesus' response to Philip and Andrew was meant to encourage both Jews and Gentiles to trust in Him, alluding to the salvation of all through His death. Jesus promises eternal presence to His faithful followers, assuring them of companionship in glory. Mortimer emphasizes that those who love Jesus will see Him as He truly is, described in Revelation, and be transformed to be like Him.

Transcript

Who were these Greeks that desired so much to see Jesus? They were Gentiles, brought up in the Greek religion, but who had forsaken it for the worship of the true God. We cannot wonder that they longed to see the great prophet of Nazareth, with whose praises all Jerusalem resounded. It must have been more than a sight that they desired. Zaccheus desired only a sight, when he climbed the sycamore tree, but these Greeks appear to have wished for an interview. They desired to converse with the Lord. It was not easy to obtain access to one who was always surrounded by a crowd. Who would make way for Gentiles to approach him--for Gentiles, who were considered as the dregs of the earth by the proud and bigoted Jews? These Greeks, therefore, applied to Philip the apostle.

It appears that he was doubtful whether the Lord would receive them; for we find he consulted first with Andrew, who was his townsman, and that afterwards he and Andrew together told Jesus. No more mention is made of these Greeks; but we know too well the love that Christ bore to poor Gentiles, to doubt how he would receive them. Had they ever conversed with the Roman centurion, or the woman of Canaan, they would not have feared a repulse.

The centurion would have said, "I thought that I was not worthy that he should come under my roof, and, lo! he received me as a son." The Canaanite would have said, "I was content to be a dog, worthy only to eat the crumbs that fell from the children's table, and, lo! he called me his daughter." None who knew his

condescending love, would ever fear a cold reception from the Friend of sinners.

His answer to Philip and Andrew was calculated to encourage the Greeks, as well as the Jews, to trust in him. When he said that a corn of wheat, if it die or corrupt in the ground, will bring forth much fruit, did he not allude to the salvation of Gentiles, as well as Jews, through his death?

Seed is sometimes cast into the ground and never springs up--sometimes it springs up, but produces only a little fruit--but Jesus died, and was buried, that he might rise again and bring many sons and daughters to glory. It would not satisfy the Son of God to save a few souls--he knew before he suffered, that he should redeem from eternal misery a multitude that no man can number. But he knew also that this multitude must suffer much tribulation. Therefore he continually exhorted all who approached him to be faithful unto death. With what affection he promised that his fellow-sufferers should be his companions in glory, saying, "Where I am, there shall also my servant be!" The Greeks had desired a passing interview with Jesus, but here was a promise of his presence forever and ever.

We have never seen the Son of Man, as he appeared upon earth in the days of his humiliation; but, if we love him, we shall see him--see him not as he was, but as he is--see him as described in Revelation 10, "Clothed with a cloud, a rainbow upon his head, his face as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire." And when we see him as he is, we shall be like him. Those who saw him as he was were not made like him by the sight. But he has made this promise to his servants, "They shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads." (Rev. 22:4.)

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