



## **Sermon from 1 March 2020 - John 12:23-36 - the seed that dies – Small Group Notes**

Have you ever looked back and wondered where it all went? Where all the time went, or the money, etc?

Sometimes we learn big lessons in hindsight. What advice would you give to a young person based on your own experience?

**Read** Luke 12:21

What legacy do you want to leave? What is your life about?

**Our purpose – what is the seed for?**

‘the seed that dies, produces many seeds’

**Read** John 12:24

What do you see in this metaphor? Does anything stand out to you?

Jesus’ hour or time is a theme in the gospel of John. It comes up nine times (2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27 [2x]; 13:1; 16:32; 17:1). The significant thing here, in verse 23, is that before this it said his hour had not yet come. So when Jesus said his hour has come the disciples would have been paying attention!

**Read** John 12:23, and 12:27

How does Jesus’ awareness of his purpose come out in this passage?

What glory would they have been expecting as Jesus has just entered into Jerusalem?  
What would have been confusing for them?

Jesus was resolved to live for the will of the father. You can look at John 4:34 and 6:38 if you want to explore this more.

**Read** 2 Samuel 17:23, 16:23, and 17:7

Have you ever had your world focussed on one thing... only to have that thing taken away, and your world falls apart?

The relationship ends. The job is taken away. The kids move away. The markets turn. The business fails. Your marks weren't good enough. Your team lost.

If your purpose is living for God. It will never be taken away.  
Living for God is the only thing that truly matters.

### **Self – what chokes the seed?**

**Read** John 12:25 and 27

Have you ever been at the start of something really important, but needed to push yourself as it would also be difficult?

Just as there are many things that compete to be the desire of your heart they also can stop you from having the focus that you should have.

**Read** Mark 10:17 and 21

Why might love look like this?

Why did Jesus challenge this man in this way? Is this a universal message, or is it just for this man?

People search for purpose and find it all sorts of places. Places that aren't necessarily bad (depending), but can choke the seed.

Money, hobbies, travel, friends, your house, children, job, physical fitness, worries, that new show on Netflix, the charity you support... on and on.

All of which can be good or bad depending on the place they take in your heart.

We need times of rest, but those times of rest should help us to serve God instead of pulling us away from God. What things, in your life, have you been tempted to allow them to become all-consuming?

How do we keep things that are trivial from pulling us away from things that are truly important?

This isn't just about your purpose, or your priorities, but it leads to a way of life... **One that... 'produces many seeds'**

'the seed that dies, produces many seeds'

**Read** John 12:24, 26, and 32

How do we develop the attitude of a servant, so that we have a heart that is willing to surrender to God?