

PSALM SUNDAY — THE HOUR HAS COME, JOHN 12-17

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Pastor Ben emphasized the importance of the phrase "the hour has come" throughout this passage. In fact, John 12:27 tells us that the very purpose of the incarnation of Christ is "this hour." What stood out to you in the message about the urgency and the necessity of "this hour"?

3. In John 12:24-26 Jesus talks about the necessity of death in order to have life and bear fruit. In what ways is this uniquely true for Jesus, and in what ways does it apply to every believer?

4. In the same passage, Jesus says that we must hate our life in this world in order to have eternal life. What does it practically look like to hate your own life in this way?

5. What do we as believers gain from "this hour?" What is our cost?

6. Read John 14:25-31 about the Holy Spirit, and then John 13:5-17 about Jesus' service and instruction. What does God command of us, and what role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives?

7. Throughout these chapters, from those shouting "Hosanna" in the streets to the disciples in the upper room, people's expectation of God's divine workings was different than God's plan. We see examples of this even today through things like the prosperity gospel movement. How can we protect our correct understanding of God's truth compared to false expectations of it?

8. Throughout this passage and previously in the Gospel of John (John 2:4 and John 7:6) we see God's sovereign hand at work – a theme we have been tracing strongly in our study of the Book of Exodus, well over a thousand years before Christ. What practical comfort can we take from this today?

9. Challenge yourself to read Jesus' High Priestly prayer, John 17, every day this week. The audio Bible reading of this passage takes under four minutes. Then record five observations about this passage and at least one implication of those observations. (As an example: "Out of all the names and titles for God, Jesus addresses His prayer to "Father," just as He instructed us in Matthew 6:9, meaning that our sovereign, infinite God desires an intimate relationship with us.")