

TITLE AND NUMBER: 20. New priorities



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 12:20-33

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. (v24-26)

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 6:19 - 24, Colossians 3:1 - 4, John 17:15 - 19, Luke 14:21, Philippians 2: 6 - 11 and 3:8

What does this Bible passage tell us?

The death and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus talked about these events to prepare His disciples and they found this very hard to understand.

In verse 24, He compares His death and burial to a seed being planted. Outwardly the seed seems lifeless, but the farmer knows otherwise. At harvest time, that one seed will produce a crop of golden wheat. Knowing this, Jesus didn't run away from the cross, but willingly died for everyone. His body was buried and three days later God raised Him from the dead. The disciples were overjoyed when the risen Jesus appeared to them. And the promise is that we will be raised just like Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

Jesus didn't hold on to his life at any cost, but gave it up, looking to a future joy (Hebrews 11:2-3). The most important thing for Jesus was not an easy life now, but our salvation – bringing us back to God.

Serving each other as Jesus did is not easy. Sometimes it involves making that keep us on the straight and narrow. If we do this, we know that Jesus will be with us.

Reflections:

- Why do you think the disciples found it so hard to understand what Jesus meant when he talked about his death and resurrection?
- Have you ever grown a seed? What does it need to make it grow? How can our Christian lives grow?
- In what ways can you serve other people?
- What choices do you need to make at the moment?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

