

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church
Holy Week Bible Study
Monday, March 17, 2008

- I. Jesus had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Jewish feast of the Passover
 - A. Had raised Lazarus from the dead
 - B. Welcomed by huge crowd, came not only to see Jesus but also Lazarus
 - C. Palm branches, Hosanna

- II. In the crowd are some Greeks, who also came to worship and they make a request of the Apostle Philip, "Sir we want to see Jesus"
 - A. Philip is a Greek name, thought he would be sympathetic to their request
 - B. Philip tells Andrew and later Andrew and Philip tell Jesus
 1. Ambiguity about Jesus actions towards Gentiles Matthew 10:5-6, Mark 7:27, John 4:22 (However Jesus does heal the daughter of the Syrophenician woman and preaches the gospel to her whole town)
 2. Jesus was not bigoted but felt an obligation in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies to proclaim His kingdom first to Israel and that He would reach out to the Gentiles after Israel had rejected her Messiah.
 3. Philip and Andrew did not understand this and must have debated this before going to Jesus.

- III. Jesus Response
 - A. We do not know what response Andrew and Philip expected but we can be sure they were surprised by His response.
 1. They might have expected Him to say "I am not seeing Greeks now" or I will be glad to see them"
 - B. Instead Jesus views their arrival as a sign that the climax of His mission on earth had at last arrived. He said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." (verse 23)
 - C. This is in contrast to those times in this gospel when He tells us His hour had not yet come.
 1. John 2:4
 2. John 7:6,8
 3. John:7:30
 4. John 8:20

During the three years of His public ministry this had been a dominant theme, "my hour has not yet come", now the "hour has come" because these Gentiles had come to see Jesus in Jerusalem.

- IV. What makes the coming of these Gentiles (Greeks) so important?
 - A. They were a sign that the turning point had come when now salvation would be offered to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews. It would be the beginning of the proclamation of the gospel to the entire world.
 - B. John indicates this by the way he tells the story in his gospel. Notice the contrast and irony.
 1. In verse 19, the Pharisees, the most highly regarded of religious figures among the Jews reject Jesus. They not only reject Him but are going about to kill Him. They say,

“see this is getting us nowhere. The world has gone after Him.” Literally they were correct and did not know it.

2. The Gentiles (Greeks) aliens from the House of Israel represent the world seeking Him.

V. Christ Glory

- A. Jesus not only said “the hour has come” but that “the Son of man should be glorified.” (verse 23)
- B. Glory is the Hebrew word, “kabod.” It means honor, esteem, adoration, and weight or importance.
- C. There are two instances in which the “hour had come” for Jesus to be glorified.
 1. First, Christ was glorified to have the Greeks come to Him for salvation. In fact for all men to come to Him for salvation. We think we have arrived or are important when we are exclusive. It is hard to see the so called “great” people of this world. But not with Jesus. He opens the door wide for all to come to Him.
 - a. We say we want to glorify Christ and have so many opportunities to do so but don’t.
One of the ways we can glorify Christ is by bringing or helping others to find Him. We believe it is only by praising Him but the more important way is to help others to find Him. However this is the thing we do least to glorify God.
 2. Second, Christ is glorified by the cross.
 - a. When Jesus talks about the “hour” He is referring to His death, burial and resurrection. Consequently we recognize that it was by dying for us that He was glorified.
 - b. Jesus said, “unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.” Jesus is the seed that died and fell in the ground.
 - c. Unless He died there would be no fruit, that is no salvation for any sinner.

VI. Here is Christ glory, that He died for us; and it is in this above all else that He should be glorified.

- A. Will we glorify Him? The best way is by coming to Him in faith in order to receive Him as your Savior.
- B. Or again, if we already know Him as our Savior, it is by living as He lived and by bringing others to Him.