



Connect Group study

John 12 (part 3)

What are you living for? In a world filled with distractions and temptations, that's a healthy question to ask yourself every now and again. This is effectively the question Jesus asks us in today's passage – how will you respond?

Read John 12:23-26

Reflect

Q1. Think about the people you know. What would you say most of them are living for? What is the main focus of their lives?

Q2. Does anything surprise you about verse 25? If so, what and why?

Q3. What do you think Jesus means when He talks about loving and hating life?

Q4. Henry Drummond said:

"Each man has only a certain amount of life, of time, of attention - a definite measurable quantity. If he gives any of it to this life solely it is wasted. Therefore Christ says, hate life, limit life, lest you steal your love for it from something that deserves it more."

- a. Discuss what he is saying here.
- b. What is the significance of the word 'solely'?
- c. What things deserve our love more than our earthly life?

Q5. What do you think Jesus means when He says "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be."? (Consider the context, especially verses 23-24).

Respond

Q6. This is not the first time Jesus has called His followers to a life of radical self-denial (compare Mark 8:34-35). In our culture, in what areas do you think we need in particular to follow Jesus and resist being consumed by purely 'earthly' things?

Q7. Do you think you are currently devoting more of your "life, time and attention" to other things rather than to God and eternal things? Share what these things are and anything you feel you need to adjust in your life - pray for one another into these areas.

Key verse(s)

Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:25 NIV)