We Want to See Jesus

Zanesville, OH | March 3, 2019 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** John 12:20-26

**Intro**:

* Shortly after Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, he would be brutally tortured, mocked, murdered and buried. One more Passover feast would be the setting of His death and it could not be more fitting (cf. Ex. 12). The Passover feast was no doubt one of the biggest if not the biggest Jewish feasts that was held every year. People came from near and far to worship at Jerusalem and to partake in this feast. In John’s gospel, it is evident that gentiles (Greeks) were also present. It is this presence in John 12 that promptly begins Jesus’ *“hour.”* Yet these Greeks came with a purpose: **We want to see Jesus.** This they said to Philip hoping that perhaps he could get them close to Jesus. Thousands upon thousands hurried at the chance to see Jesus when He was on the earth. They came from near and far to see, touch and listen to Him. We don’t have to opportunity today to physically interact with Jesus but He is just as present today as He was in the 1st century.

**How is Jesus Seen Today?**

1. **Jesus is Seen in The Creation**
	1. While we can’t physically see and touch Jesus today, we can clearly see Him in the creation. The very things He established in the beginning (Gen. 1; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16-17) are telling of who He is and how big He is (Psa. 8:1-3; 19:1)!
	2. In Romans 1:20, the Apostle Paul makes a strong argument that Jesus’ attributes (eternity, love, mercy, patience, grace, omniscience, omnipotence etc.) are **CLEARLY SEEN** through that which has been made.
	3. Notice that Paul does not leave room for a rebuttal. The phrases clearly seen, being understood and without excuse demonstrate that one cannot look at God’s creation without seeing Jesus; who He is and how big He is! We see Jesus in His creation.
2. **Jesus is Seen in The Word**
	1. You may have heard those who are unbelievers say that they won’t believe in Jesus unless they see visible manifestation of Him or some great miracle or sign performed. Perhaps at one point in your life you felt this way.
	2. Yet, that’s not what it takes to believe in Jesus (Matt. 16:1-4; Lk. 16:27-31). Jesus is clearly seen in the Word of God. That was Jesus’ point to the religious leaders and it was Abraham’s point to the rich man. If one does not believe, it will not be because they can’t see Jesus.
	3. John says we must believe what is written! What is written points us to Jesus; who He is and how big He is (Jn. 20:30-31). Jesus is not just seen in creation but He is seen in the bible. He is the most important character in the OT and the NT.
	4. Jesus is never mentioned by name in the OT yet He is the most important character throughout the course of those 39 books (Isa. 52:13-53:12). He Himself fulfilled over 300 prophecies which is in and of itself humanly impossible. It is only possible through God. Jesus is seen in the Word.
	5. These prophecies He fulfilled in the NT, and He was the Light of the World who came to enlighten every man. He worked great miracles and signs and He spoke like no other man did. Jesus is seen in the Word.
3. **Jesus is Seen in His Disciples**
	1. Jesus knew He wouldn’t be on this earth forever and He admonished His followers to keep doing what He started (Jn. 13:20, 33-35). By taking on the life Jesus lived, by loving, serving, suffering, sacrificing, teaching, rebuking and being selfless as He was, Jesus would live on through His followers (Acts 1:1-2, 8).
	2. This was possible only through His death and resurrection (Jn. 14:19-20). Jesus says He would have to leave but they would see Him again through His followers, through His children and all those willing to do as He did. Jesus in seen in His disciples.
	3. Paul admonished Christians to imitate Christ because that’s one of the best ways the people around us (inner circle and outer circle) get to see Jesus (1 Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:1). We ought to shine our lights so that people can see Jesus living in us (Matt. 5:14-16).
4. **Jesus is Seen in His Enemies**
	1. Since the beginning Satan has been seeking to deter man from God (Gen. 3:1-5) and he has succeeded by and large. Why is Satan so bent on deterring us from God? He knows the truth! He knows God will win and that he is condemned to the destruction of Hell (Matt. 25:41).
	2. Satan’s flurry of activity and His manipulating of other people illustrate the majesty of Jesus, who He is and how big He is! Joseph (Gen. 37, 39-40) and Job (Job 1-2) are prime examples of the devil attacking those who are faithful to God seeking to destroy their purpose and their resolve to serve Him (suffering, sin and consequences all point us to Jesus who can deliver us from all these things).