



March 18, 2018 - Year B Fifth Sunday of Lent Lectionary: 35 Gospel JN 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

Spiritual Reflection:

"May the church be the place of God's mercy and love, where everyone can feel themselves welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. And in order to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the church must have open doors so that all might enter. And we must go out of those doors and proclaim the Gospel." —Pope Francis. Philip and Andrew realized that the Church was the place for people to come to know who Jesus was and therefore it was their job not to judge the Greeks but it was their job to introduce them to Jesus.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Do you place demands on people who come to Church? Dress? Moral code?
2. How can the Church hold a standard (God's law) and still welcome sinners?
3. When someone is looking for advice about the faith, will they turn to you? Why or Why not?
4. How can you become a better ambassador for Jesus?
5. Who is your role model for getting to know Jesus better?