

“A Fruitful Death”

John 12:23-26

Introduction: One of the greatest lessons that a Christian can learn is the school of death. This is not the death of the body, but the death of self. The Bible teaches us that the way up is down (John 3:30). So many believers will not fill out an application to this school. Altars are a place of death and until you are ready to die, leave it alone. Jesus is the great example of death. He died that we might live as seen in Revelation 22:16.

1. The Creation Revelation 22:16- “I am the root”
2. The Incarnation Revelation 22:16- “the offspring of David”
3. The Exaltation Revelation 22:16- “the bright and morning star”

Body: In the text, Jesus is trying to teach us the importance of dying to self (vs. 25-26). We can learn this lesson from the caterpillar and the process of metamorphosis (II Corinthians 3:18). When a person consumes his time with self, he loses the important elements in service for God. Jesus revealed to us the tremendous blessings of surrender and service to God. This is also seen in the “corn (a grain) of wheat”. Let us notice:

- I. The Hindrance of the Wheat v. 24- “Except” (“Except”-“unless”)
- II. The Humility of the Wheat v. 24- “fall” (“fall”-“to descend from a higher place to a lower, fall prostrate”)
- III. The Hiding of the Wheat v. 24- “into the ground”
- IV. The Hope of the Wheat v. 24- “and die”
- V. The Help of the Wheat v. 24- “it abideth alone” (“alone”-“destitute of help”)
- VI. The Honor of the Wheat v. 24- “but if it die” (“if”-“in case”)
- VII. The Harvest of the Wheat v. 24- “it bringeth forth much fruit” I Corinthians 15:35-37

Conclusion: Is this death fair? Keep in mind that Jesus set the example. Notice what this prophecy was about (v. 23). This is an illustration of the future death of Jesus Christ. Even Jesus realized the glory that comes from death. The glory and fruit that came from Jesus’ death was the birth of sinners into the family of God! Notice this principle in Philippians 2:5-11.

1. The Realization of Jesus v. 5- “Let this mind be in you”
2. The Representation of Jesus v. 6- “in the form of God”
3. The Reputation of Jesus v. 7- “made himself of no reputation”
4. The Resemblance of Jesus v. 7- “took upon him the form of a servant”
5. The Righteousness of Jesus v. 8- “he humbled himself”
6. The Resurrection of Jesus v. 9- “God also hath highly exalted him”
7. The Recognition of Jesus v. 9- “given him a name which is above every name”
8. The Royalty of Jesus vs. 10-11- “every knee should bow...every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord” Hebrews 2:9