

JESUS UnMASKED Episode 2: Facing Life's Troubling Moments
August 16, 2020 * La Jolla Christian Fellowship * Pastor Jim Smith

John 12:20-28; 32 – “Now there were some Greeks who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we would like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. He replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth: unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The one who loves their life will lose it, while the one who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ Then a voice came from heaven: ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again...’ [Jesus]: If I be lifted up, I will draw all to me.”

What *persona/role* (Is. 9:6) draws people/you to Jesus? In John’s “signs” Gospel, he presents as Bread (6:51), Light (8:12), Shepherd (10:11), Son of God (10:36), Resurrection & Life (11:25)... So “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified” (v. 23) wins!! *But mask off: turning over one’s life = the key to fruitful, eternal life* (v.24-26) Inconceivable!! **Jesus models how to face unsettling times...**

*** Practice Honesty: “My Heart/Soul is Troubled” (v. 27)** NT Greek *tarasso* = “hassled, stirred up, anxious.” Our sinless Lord proves being stressed in a life season (for us, families, church, world “corners”) is *not*, in itself, sin. Jesus’ honesty with his “insides” was crucial in making a healthy, righteous choice. **Where are you at?**

*** Choose Wisely: “Beam Me Up” or “Bear Me Up”? (v.27)** “Stuffing” our feelings - and fearful “fight/flight, “run/cling”” reactions – are unhealthy and fruitless. Jesus recognizes the **presence and purposes** of his loving heavenly Father in the moment – and says, “Yes, Lord.” Such prayer moments detail his perfection in real-izing obedience (Heb. 2:10, 4:14-16, 5:8) even in suffering. **What’s your healthy choice?**

*** Prioritize the Goal: “Glorify Your Name” (v. 28)** What does this mean? Prayer for: “Public display of the infinite beauty and worth of God... the **radiance** of his holiness, of his manifold, infinitely worthy and valuable perfections” (John Piper). Jesus focused on this life goal: glorify the Lord... and joy rises. **Your core goal?**

*** Embrace the Assurance: “I Have... and Will Again” (v.28)** The Heavenly Father’s answering voice invites a look at personal **history** (“See how I’ve often been glorified in your life”) and living **hope** (“Be assured these hard times will bear fruit”). Good News: the path through 12:27 leads to 14:1. Unmasked, Jesus steps toward the cross. Lifted up at Calvary, and through our lives and witness, he by grace *seeks to draw all peoples to himself* (John 12:32). Empowered by this, together we **embrace life** (Deut. 30:19f) this Sunday – and into life’s Mondays... **Tune in!**

Further Study: William Barclay, *Jesus as They Saw Him*; N.T. Wright, *Simply Jesus*; Jaroslav Pelikan, *Jesus Through the Centuries*, Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*