

Sunday, March 17, 2024 CCC

“The Way a Seed Sprouts” John 12: 20-33

Jesus 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.”

What does it mean that Jesus Christ gave His life for us? There are two images in this passage to help us understand. He falls to the ground as a seed being buried in the ground, v. 24, and is lifted up on the cross to die in the place of all condemned sinners, v. 31, 32.

Christ speaks of His death as a kernel of wheat falling to the ground, germinating and producing many seeds. v. 24. Do you have any experience in growing plants? What do you know of the germination of seeds that could help you understand Christ’s words?

Christ speaks of this as His being glorified, and the Father being glorified. Christ states that this is planned by God and following God’s schedule (“*the hour,*” “*this hour*”) vv. 23, 28. Looking back, do you see times that you were able to trust God’s timing?

Christ speaks of His heart being troubled. He mentions the possibility of asking God to deliver Him from what is ahead, but He will not do so, because He is following God’s purposes for Him. v. 27. Can you remember a time when you wished for a way out of suffering but were strengthened to trust God’s purposes?

When God spoke audibly from heaven to confirm God’s purposes for Jesus Christ, not everyone present heard or acknowledged God’s voice. v. 29. Jesus Himself did not need that external validation in order to be sure of God’s direction. v. 30. In what ways do you confirm God’s messages to you?

John records Christ’s teaching about His own life given for us and Christ’s message to Christ’s disciples. Those who follow Christ must also be like a kernel of wheat falling to the ground and dying, although only Christ’s death gives life to the world. vv. 25, 26. In what ways have you experienced giving up your life in this world for Christ’s sake?