



Sermon Growth Guide

February 21, 2021

To Give His Life – A Funeral Procession

John 12:12–25

Key Verse: John 12:24

“Very truly I tell you, 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.”

Big Idea: If you want your life to amount to something eternally meaningful, release it into the soil at the foot of the cross.

Foundations

This week we begin our new sermon series, **To Give His Life**. What is love? John writes, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” Jesus loving us means Jesus giving Himself away for us. “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us,” (Romans 5:8).

“Jesus came to earth for one primary reason,” writes Pastor Tim, “to give His life away as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” Christ’s single act of love on the cross makes all the difference. Calvary offers us our only chance to let go of our sin and hold onto life eternal in Christ. However, letting go of our sin is not easy. We must release control of our lives.

Pastor Tim asks, “Can you look at your own life and toss it in the soil before Jesus? Fully release and drop it into the soil at the foot of the cross? That’s the question Jesus is asking.”

Gathered together with your circle, open your time of study in prayer. Ask the Spirit to guide and guard your spiritual formation, your growth in Christ. Pray to be given the courage to place your life with Jesus in the crimson soil of Golgotha hill.

Understanding God’s Word

What passages from the Old Testament are quoted in our text today? Why is the Old Testament being brought into the events of John 12:12–25?

According to the Pharisees in verse 19, how popular has Jesus become?

Spend time discussing verses 23–25. What does the kernel of wheat metaphor mean?

Applying God’s Word

Pastor Tim asks, “Can you look at your own life and toss it in the soil before Jesus? Fully release and drop it into the soil at the foot of the cross? That’s the question Jesus is asking.” How are you doing at letting go of your life that Christ might use your life to advance His Kingdom through you? Encourage, spur and pray for one another—that we as the First Pres family be joyfully willing to give up our lives for the sake of Jesus living through us.

Witnessing God’s Word

Identify and name one person you want to see come to love Jesus. Commit to strive to have Jesus live through you toward this person by fully placing your life with Jesus on the cross.