

Session 5- Following and Service

I. Who is in service?

- A. We are all members of the body of Christ.
 - 1. Body is the tool in which the purpose of the head is worked out.
 - 2. We all are called to bear fruit.
- B. Places of service.
 - 1. Family- Children.
 - 2. Church- No matter what role you fulfill.
 - 3. Society- People around us should see truth lived out in us.

II. John 12:24-26

- A. General information:
 - 1. This is the final week of the Lord's ministry.
 - 2. Teaching comes in response to an appeal for an interview from some Greeks.
 - 3. Jesus directs His words to the entire crowd.
 - a. The disciples.
 - b. The Greeks.
 - c. A large group of Jews.
 - d. Probably religious leaders.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him” (John 12:24-26).

B. Key points of exposition:

1. **Corn of wheat principle** - Jesus speaks of His own experience.

a. **Teaching** is not enough for fruitfulness.

b. **Example** is not enough for fruitfulness.

c. Corn of wheat must fall in the ground and die.

(1) Jesus must go to the cross.

(2) Only then can life be imparted to another.

2. **Loving and hating your life** - Jesus speaks to the crowd.

a. Everyone has a life with which they will do something.

b. Two attitudes - Two outcomes.

(1) Love your life- Lose it.

(2) Hate your life- Keep it unto eternal life.

(3) These are the only two options Jesus presents.

3. **Serving the Lord** - Primarily to the disciples but the principle applies to anyone who decides to serve God.

a. Choice to serve the Lord belongs to those who listen.

b. The path the servant must take is set by the Lord.

If you are actually going to serve Me, you must join Me on the path that took Me to the cross.

c. Results of taking this path of service.

(1) Fellowship- Where I am there My servant will be.

(2) Honor from the Father.

III. Principle in the epistles.

A. Romans 12:1-3: Be a living sacrifice.

B. Philippians 2:5-11: Live with the attitude of the Lord.

C. Philippians 3:7-11: That I might know Him.

D. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: You are not your own...glorify God in your body.

E. 2 Corinthians 4:12: So death works in us but life in you.

F. 2 Corinthians 5:15: Purpose of Jesus' death is that those who know Him should live for Him and not themselves.