



### **John 12: 20-33**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



I have to admit; time-lapse videos are pretty neat. They are videos that speed up processes that usually take days, weeks, or even months to finalize. (I would love to see a time-lapse video of my room being cleaned, but apparently that video is unavailable).

When I read John 12:24, I began to wonder what Jesus' metaphor of a kernel of wheat falling to the ground and dying had to do with the death of Jesus. So, of course, I checked out a time-lapse video of "what happens when a kernel of wheat falls to the ground." It turns out that this process is pretty spectacular! When the wheat kernel falls to the soil and dies, it "comes back to life," shooting green sprouts out of its seed body! The sprouts climb up to the surface towards the light and flourish into a beautiful wheat plant.

In the same way, when we surrender our old lives and kill our old habits (falling to the ground and dying), we reach new life and grow in Jesus. We wouldn't have this new life if it weren't for Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. When we spiritually renew ourselves through the death of our old ways, we do not just remain as a "single seed," but we grow "new wheat" and spread God's love. If Jesus didn't die on the cross, we simply wouldn't be living like we are today. This passage truly taught me that only through death can life come peeking out. Only through Jesus are we able to live.



- Kate Messick



*Heavenly Father, Thank you for blessing us with the ability to start over each and every single day through Your Son Jesus. Help us to see what needs to fall from our own lives and lead us to a process of growth and new life through Christ. Amen.*