

“We wish to see Jesus”...

Holy Week, the commemoration of the last week of Jesus' life, starts next Sunday. But today's Gospel from John has us already in Jerusalem, after Palm Sunday; just a few days from the Passover and from Jesus' death.

Greeks, Gentiles, not Jews, want to see Jesus, meet Jesus ... they are in Jerusalem for the Passover; they are curious; they are on a kind of Pilgrimage; they've heard about Jesus, especially the amazing story of the healing of Lazarus.

John uses this occasion, this desire to see Jesus, as another introduction to our Lord's Passion and Glory. John includes many themes – losing life, finding eternal life, servanthood, discipleship, judgement, glory, the death to come.

We know this story so well. We don't just think about it for 1 or 2 weeks each year. The Passion and the Glory of Jesus is something we reflect upon every Sunday. Death and resurrection, heaven, discipleship ... these are constant themes for every Christian ... light and darkness; the power of evil; love stronger than death, love stronger than evil.

It all seems to get concentrated into 8 days starting next Sunday; but in reality, the Passion and Glory of Jesus defines our own lives. This battle against sin and evil and death is constant.

Maybe that's why John uses the word “now” 4 times in these 13 verses and he tells us that Jesus said, “The hour has come...” Faith asks us to make decisions every hour of our lives. We are given the choice – to choose for God or to choose for the world, for ourselves. Choices?

I know the poor choices I have made. They drive me to prayer, to ask for forgiveness, to repent. Did the Greeks ever get to see Jesus, to meet him? We don't know. What we do know is the events of this last week of Jesus' life changed the world. The Passion and the Glory of Jesus – his death and resurrection changed the world forever. And we have been changed because we too wish to see Jesus.

We are blessed because we have seen Jesus. We know the rest of the story, perhaps unlike the Greeks. We know Jesus lives after dying. We know Jesus gives his Spirit to empower those who ran away from his execution. This Spirit gives men and women the courage to love, to change the world.

So many live in fear, into anger, in their self-centered agendas. We are called to live in Jesus' Passion and Glory. The meaning of life can be found in the last 8 days of Jesus' life. We wish to see Jesus ... in all that we do... in all that we are...