

# Living the Right Way



# **Living the Right Way**

## **John 12:20-26**

If this sermon was a book and I wanted to sell lots of copies, the title would cause it to fail.

Now if it were entitled "Living the High Life" or "Living the Successful Life," then I may have a winner. But many have lived with both success and riches who didn't live right!

# **Living the Right Way**

## **John 12:20-26**

So what is the right life? Or to frame it with a better question: What kind of life is most pleasing to God? Through a series of paradoxes, John gives us the answer—it wasn't the answer most people are looking for!

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## John 12:20-26

Doing the right thing doesn't come easy

Most gauge goodness by their feelings

What is right?

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## **John 12:20-26**

According to dictionary.com: "What is in accordance with what is good and proper; the conformity with fact and reason"

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## John 12:20-26

According to 1865 Webster's Dictionary:

"Accordant to the standard of truth and justice or the will of God. That alone is right in the will of God that is consonant to His will or law, this being the only standard of truth and justice."

Doing right is not always easy or comfortable.

# Living the Right Way Involves Three Things

## 1. The Right Pursuit (vv. 20-22)

Greeks want to see Jesus

Possible spiritual Greeks, who have turned from paganism and are interested in the God of Israel (a Gentile group of God fearers).

# Living the Right Way Involves Three Things

## 1. The Right Pursuit (vv. 20-22)

Perhaps secular Greeks curious about the philosophy Jesus espoused.

Searching for some "new philosophy" from Jesus



# Living the Right Way Involves Three Things

## 1. The Right Pursuit (vv. 20-22)

Came to Philip first

Philip was a Greek name

(means lover of horses)

# Living the Right Way Involves Three Things

## 1. The Right Pursuit (vv. 20-22)

Jesus Christ is not only the Redeemer for Israel and the Jews, but the entire world

# Living the Right Way Involves Three Things

## 1. The Right Pursuit (vv. 20-22)

Gentiles seeking Jesus are bookends to His life

Wise men from the East seek Him at the  
beginning of earthly life

Wise men from West seek Him at the end of His  
life

# Living the Right Way Involves Three Things

## 1. The Right Pursuit (vv. 20-22)

"One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple."

(Psalm 27:4)

## 2. The Right Provision (vv. 23-24)

A Messianic term

"I was watching in the night visions, And  
behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with  
the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of  
Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

## 2. The Right Provision (vv. 23-24)

A Messianic term

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and sovereign power, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14)

## 2. The Right Provision (vv. 23-24)

A Messianic term

Rules not by conquest, but by his own death and  
resurrection.

First pursue Jesus as your Savior.

### 3. The Right Priorities (vv. 25-26)

"Hate your life": A Hebrew idiom, prefer one thing over something else so distinctly it is like comparing love to hatred



### 3. The Right Priorities (vv. 25-26)

"He who loves his life" life – In the Greek it refers to mental life, ego, self-focused life

"He who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" eternal life – Greek meaning-age-abiding life; focused on God and His will

## Paradoxes of Christian living

God's power is made perfect in our weakness  
(See 2 Corinthians 12:9)

To be rich, we must become poor in spirit (See  
Matthew 5:3)

If you want to be first, you must be last (See  
Mark 9:35)

## Paradoxes of Christian living

If you want to rule, you must serve (See Mark 9:35)

When you humble yourself before God, He will exalt you. If you exalt yourself He will humble you. (See James 4:10)

When you value the soul more than the body, different choices are made

# Paradoxes of Christian living

Serving Christ not Serving Self

If Jesus Christ is just your Savior and not your Lord and Master, don't expect to have a full and satisfying life.

Joy in knowing your life is honoring and pleasing to God

## Paradoxes of Christian living

"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!"  
(Matthew 5:6 GNT)

## Paradoxes of Christian living

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)

"Well done, good and faithful servant;"  
(Matthew 25:21)