



## **“The Upside Down Life”**

### **John 12:25**

#### **Introduction**

Last week we examined **John 12:20-24** and we began to discover six ways Jesus is Glorified.

Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, **wanted to see Jesus**. The word translated “**see**” comes from the Greek word “**Eidon**” meaning to perceive, to clearly comprehend, to become aware, to experience Jesus in a real way.

People were attracted to Jesus because of His Message, His Ministry and His Miracles.

Jesus replied to them in v.23 “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be **glorified.**”

**The hour has come for everyone to see exactly who Jesus is!**

In **John 12:23** the word translated “**glorified**” comes from the word “**doxazo**” meaning to enhance the reputation of another. To praise, to honor, to hold in high esteem, to elevate in status, to recognize and honor splendid greatness.

In **John 12:24-33** we get “**to see**” Jesus glorified.

**Six Ways Jesus is Glorified:**

**1. Jesus is Glorified through Multiplication v.24**

Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. **But if it dies, it produces much fruit.** CSB

### **Jesus multiplied Himself— The ONE for the many!**

**Romans 5:12** says, “just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.” CSB

### **Jesus multiplied Himself— He is the first fruits of the dead.**

**John 11:25-26** “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. <sup>26</sup>Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” CSB

### **Jesus multiplies Himself through those who follow Him—**

**Matthew 16:24** “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” CSB

**Romans 6:13** “. . . **But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.**” CSB

Today we are going to discover:

### **Jesus is Glorified through “The Upside Down Life” v.25**

#### Scripture

The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. CSB

#### Quotes Of The Day

“Jesus could have disembarked in one of the world's greatest cities. People would have said, "Right time, right place, look what fate can do.”

Jesus could have been born into a billionaire financial dynasty. People would have said, "Look what money can do."

Jesus could have been the child of an earthly emperor. People would have said, "Look what political power can do."

Jesus could have come by way of a celebrity family. People would have said, "Look what fame can do."

Instead, Jesus stepped into poverty, weakness, and obscurity, and all we can say, 'Look what God can do.'" — Kyle Idleman,

The Apostles of Jesus clearly embraced the upside down life. They were misunderstood, rejected, mocked, ridiculed, imprisoned, tortured and died a martyrs death. Why? They saw in Jesus the power of the upside down life. —Pat Kilby

### **What exactly is the upside down life?**

Jesus preached early and often about the kingdom of God. Jesus talked about a way of life that was radically different. Jesus talked about a life that was upside down, a life much different than the standards and values of the world. Jesus described a new concept of power, influence and success. Jesus declared those deemed greatest by the world's standards would lose their life and those who follow His example and live with a spirit of true humility and a servant's heart would be elevated in the Kingdom of God.

### **Six Ways Jesus is Glorified:**

#### **2. Jesus is Glorified through "The Upside Down Life" v.25**

The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. CSB

I heard the story of a man who whose eyesight was deteriorating but he didn't want to admit it. He went to the eye doctor for a vision test.

Just to prove to his wife and family his eyesight was not deteriorating he memorized the eye chart.

When the man entered the examination room the doctor asked him, "Can you read the top letter?"

"Yes," the man said, "it's an 'A.'" "Can you read the next row down?"

"Yes, it says, 'CZY.'" "Can you read the next row?" "Yes, I think it reads, 'RNSCV.'" "What about the next row?" "I think it reads, 'JMBOS'." Finally the doctor said, "Ok, you can put your glasses on."

"How'd I do, doc?" the man asked.

"Pretty good except for the fact that this chart contains numbers, not letters."

The way we see or don't see life shapes our life. How we see and define life determines our destiny. Our perspective on life will determine how we invest our time, spend our money, use our talents, and nurture our relationships.

I think one of the best ways to get to know other people and begin to understand what makes them tick, is to ask them, "How do you see your life?" You'll discover that there are as many answers to that question as there are people to answer it. I've heard or read that life is a circus, a minefield, a roller coaster, a puzzle, a symphony, and a dance.

Some people have said that life is like a carousel: sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down, and sometimes you just go 'round and 'round and 'round.

I've heard other people say that life is a mystery, and you spend your whole life trying to figure it out.

Samuel Eliot Morrison, the great historian of Harvard University in the 1940s and 50s, once said that life is like a card game; you have to play the hand you're dealt.

If I asked how do you perceive life, what image comes to mind? That image is our life metaphor, and it will determine our expectations, our values, our goals, and our priorities.

If we see life as a party, our primary value will be to have fun.  
If we see life as a race, we will live with speed and efficiency.  
If we see life as a marathon, we will value endurance.  
If we see life as a game, will value winning.

The great Christian writer G. K. Chesterton was once asked what the most significant books he ever read were, apart from the Bible. He replied, "Homer's Iliad, because life is a battle, and Homer's Odyssey, because life is a journey." Citation: [Seeing Life God's Way by Scott Wenig](#)

## **What is your view of life?**

In this world there are two ways we can live our life:

### **1. The one who loves his life will lose it**

**The one who loves his life will lose it**, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. CSB

**There are three important phrases we must pay attention to in v.25a**

**The one who Loves— “Phileo”** meaning to have a special interest in someone or something. To focus on and have affection for one's own self.

**his Life— “Psuchoe”** meaning life on the earth, the breath of life, the condition of being alive, the condition of being alive. The seat or the center of human life including thoughts, feelings, emotions and desires.

**will lose it— “Apollymi”** meaning to cause and thus experience destruction, to ruin, to destroy, eternal death. To suffer the destruction of one's life.

When Jesus came into this world, He brought with Him a way of life that was totally upside-down and this life does not come naturally to us.

The life that comes naturally to us the— “My life is about ME, My life is about HERE, My life is about NOW!”

Malcom Forbes is attributed with saying this— **“The one who dies with the most toys wins.”**

**Howard Robard Hughes Jr.** (December 24, 1905 – April 5, 1976) was an American businessman, investor, pilot, film director, real estate developer and philanthropist. During his lifetime he was recognized as one of the most influential and financially successful men in the world.

At the age of 18 Howard Hughes became an instant millionaire and CEO. He inherited his father’s business— Hughes Tool Company. Howard Hughes began his adult life with more money than an average person can imagine. Wanting more out of life than managing his father’s business he ventured out to follow his passions. He became an aircraft pilot, an aeronautics engineer, he was fascinated with the movie and film industry, he acted, produced, and directed movies. He was also heavily involved in real estate and many people have credited him with development and early success of Las Vegas. Howard Hughes stood 6 feet 4 inches tall, he was over 200 pounds, he had a head full of black hair, and was a very good looking man. **If anyone has ever had it Howard Hughes had it all!**

It must be understood— **“The one who dies with the most toys, still dies.”**

Howard Robert Hughes had extreme wealth, he was intelligent, he was handsome, he had great hair, he was well liked, well respected, and from the outside looking in everything Howard Hughes was the man who had it all. Suddenly at the height of his career, and life Howard Hughes retreated into seclusion. He became delusional, he went crazy. The last twenty years of his life were spent in seclusion making only one personal appearance. His final years were spent in his fortress in Mexico. Howard Hughes became paranoid. He thought someone was out to kill him and take over his vast fortune, which in today’s economy would be Billions of dollars. Howard Hughes was so paranoid of dying from disease or poisoning he refused to put clothes on, he went months at a time without cutting his hair, he refused to clip his toenails or fingernails. Every thing he ate was handed to him on paper towels, he walked on paper towels, his windows were covered in plastic so that no light could get in. He spent his last years living

in darkness in front of a television set watching his old movies for hours at a time.

Finally, when his personal assistant could do nothing more for him, Howard Hughes was flown from Mexico to a hospital in Houston.

His 6 ft 4 in frame barely weighed 90 pounds. The FBI had to use fingerprints to conclusively identify the body. Howard Hughes' alias, John T. Conover, was used when his body arrived at the morgue in Houston on the day of his death.

On his death bed Howard Hughes was out of his mind, he had a cancerous ulcer bulging from the left side of his head. His arms and legs were scarred with needle tracks from his heroin addiction. X-rays revealed five broken-off hypodermic needles in the flesh of his arms.

Howard Hughes suffered from malnutrition and was in extremely poor physical condition at the time of his death. His autopsy recorded kidney failure as the primary cause of death. Howard Hughes died a slow, lonely, painful and miserable death. **He had no identifiable relatives, and people were scratching and clawing for what he had left behind.**

Howard Hughes lived his life according to the philosophy— My life is about ME, My life is about HERE and my life is about NOW!

The master of this philosophy is satan.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** says, “. . . the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” CSB

**Ephesians 2:1-2** “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.” CSB

**John 12:31** Jesus declared satan is the ruler of this world. That is not to say satan is more powerful than God— Jesus will cast satan out of this world. Satan being the ruler of this world means that satan dominates the philosophy and mindset of this world.

**I John 5:19-21** We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one. <sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know the true one. We are in the true one—that is, in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

The god of this world has blinded us!

The god of this world deceives us!

The god of this world manipulates us!

The god of this world tempts us!

The god of this world seeks to destroy us!

Both the Old and the New Testaments talk about the brevity of our life on earth and the upside down life.

**King Solomon in Ecclesiastes had much to say about living, dying and the upside down life.**

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going. CSB

**Ecclesiastes 11:9-10** Rejoice, young person, while you are young, and let your heart be glad in the days of your youth. And walk in the ways of your heart and in the desire of your eyes; **but know that for all of these things God will bring you to judgment.** <sup>10</sup> Remove sorrow from your heart, and put away pain from your flesh, because youth and the prime of life are fleeting. CSB

**Jesus spoke about the upside down life!**

**Matthew 16:25-27** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. <sup>26</sup> **For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will**



**anyone give in exchange for his life?** <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done. CSB

A greedy man of wealth and means who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove wrong the saying, "You can't take it with you." After much thought and consideration, the man figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died. He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough money to fill two pillow cases. He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed. His plan: When he passed away, he would reach out and grab the bags of money on his way to heaven. Several months after the funeral, the wealthy man's wife was up in the attic cleaning, and she came upon the two forgotten pillow cases stuffed with cash. "Oh my goodness she exclaimed. I knew I should have put this money in the basement."

In this world there are two ways we can live our life: The one who loves his life will lose it:

## **2. The one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

The one who loves his life will lose it, **and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.** CSB

**There are four important phrases we must pay attention to in v.25b**

**The one who hates his life** — **Miseo** meaning to show disfavor, or disregard, to have strong feelings of aversion and hate.

**in this world** — **Kosmos** meaning the sum of everything in the world here and now.

**Keep it**— **Phylasso** meaning to have and retain possession of, to protect our life by taking careful measures, to be on guard.

**Eternal life— Aionios** meaning a duration of time that does not end and cannot be measured.

As we think about this life and the life to come— we are strangers in this life we are only passing through.

**I Chronicles 29:15** “For we are aliens and temporary residents in your presence as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.” CSB

**James 4:13-14** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.” <sup>14</sup> Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. CSB

## **What would you give in exchange for your soul?**

**Mark 8:36-37** For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life? <sup>37</sup> What can anyone give in exchange for his life?

**Psalms 90:10-12** Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away. <sup>11</sup> Who understands the power of your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due you. <sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. CSB

**Ecclesiastes 12:12-14** But beyond these, my son, be warned: there is no end to the making of many books, and much study wearies the body. <sup>13</sup> When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: **fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity.** <sup>14</sup> **For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil.**

**John 10:10** Jesus said, “A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.” CSB

**Those who follow Jesus choose the Upside Down life that leads to life and abundance!**

