

## **Growing in prayer with Jesus: Jesus' prayer when troubled**

### **Lent series 2023 - Small group questions**

- In previous sessions we have prayed the Jewish formula for prayer... let's do that again this week at the start of our time together and include the Lord's Prayer:

I praise you because...

I thank you because...

Say The Lord's Prayer together.

#### **Read John 12:20-30**

- The arrival of the "Greeks" was significant. What did they signal to Jesus?

Discuss what the significance of the Greeks means for you today.

- Jesus uses the image of a grain of wheat (seed) to explain what was going to happen to him.

These are very challenging words... What do these verses mean for us? How are we like these seeds?

**Key verse: "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour." V27.**

- In what way is this a 'public prayer'?
- Why was Jesus troubled?
- What do we learn about Jesus from this verse?

What is it about trouble that sends people to prayer?

Our natural response is to pray, “Save me from this hour!” Rachel offered some **tools** to enable us to shift our focus from the self-orientated “save me!” to looking up to “Father, glorify your name.”

- Do away with denial or minimising the trouble.
- Be honest – God would much rather we spoke to him about our trouble rather than denying we have it or minimise it in our own minds or with others.
- Jesus is present with us *through* the trouble. Know that God wants to instil in us a certainty that he is with us. Are there any Scriptures that have helped you know this to be true? E.g. Isaiah 43:1-3, John 16:33.
- Surrender – your trouble and yourself to God. Get back up again – not in your own strength but in God’s, because you have surrendered it all to him.

Can you relate to any of these? If so, in what way? (Please share with others if you feel comfortable).

**“Father, glorify your name.” v28.**

God answers Jesus audibly. Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine.” How is this the case?

Janet Holm McHenry writes, “Jesus demonstrated that there is purpose in the trouble we face. If God allows it, God can use it in our lives.” (P80)

- How can God the Father be glorified in your life, your trouble?
- Pray together about any ‘trouble’ faced at this time asking God the Father to “glorify your name.”