

Title: Shine Jesus Shine - John 12:20-36

Read:

²⁰⁻²¹ There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?" ²²⁻²³ Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴⁻²⁵ Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal. ²⁶ If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me. ²⁷⁻²⁸ Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'" A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again." ²⁹ The listening crowd said, "Thunder!" Others said, "An angel spoke to him!" ³⁰⁻³³ Jesus said, "The voice didn't come for me but for you. At this moment the world is in crisis. Now Satan, the ruler of this world, will be thrown out. And I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me." He put it this way to show how he was going to be put to death. ³⁴ Voices from the crowd answered, "We heard from God's Law that the Messiah lasts forever. How can it be necessary, as you put it, that the Son of Man 'be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" ³⁵⁻³⁶ Jesus said, "For a brief time still, the light is among you. Walk by the light you have so darkness doesn't destroy you. If you walk in darkness, you don't know where you're going. As you have the light, believe in the light. Then the light will be within you, and shining through your lives. You'll be children of light."

Think:

Weren't the disciples lucky they physically had Jesus with them? They could see him, touch him, ask him questions; they had his light to see by. Imagine having Jesus, actually living in your house. You could go to him and say. "Jesus, I had this problem with this guy at school, he got right on my nerves, how do I deal with him?" Or maybe. "Jesus, my parents are driving me nuts, what is it about them, that makes them think they know it all?" I'm sure Jesus would smile at you and then give you words of wisdom, or maybe tell you a parable. But in a similar way, we do have Jesus with us; we too can walk our lives by his light. If, we get into the Bible every day. If we pray, if we hang with Jesus, just by being quiet, we can walk in his light. But, just as the disciples must have found it hard without physically being with Jesus after his Crucifixion, we too can miss him, if we don't spend time with him. If we skip reading God's instruction book, the Bible. If we don't talk to God, in prayer, then his light in our lives can fade. The decisions we make at school or college, begin to reflect Jesus, less. When we hit choices to be made, our first thought, is not how would Jesus handle this. But if, we stick with Jesus, then we know that our decision will be based upon what he wants in our lives. But hey, you are listening, to God's word, so that is the first step, now all you have to do is speak to him.

Pray:

Father, thank you, that when we drift off, you are eager to welcome us back. Lord, I know, I don't spend as much time with you as I could, so please help me seek you more. Amen.

Action:

We might think that Shine Jesus Shine, is a bit of a tacky Christian song today, but do you have an alternative. How do you worship your God with song? Why not go and find some music, that you can relate to, and use it to worship your God. Bye.