

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12:23-26 (NIV)

Where Am I

That is my question. **What is your question?** Where am I? **That is an odd question. What do you mean by asking me that question?** Well, I want to serve you. I want to go and do what you ask of me. I don't want to wander off to do my own thing. I don't want to misspend my life by doing what will amount to nothing. I want to faithfully and fruitfully serve you. Your word says that if I am going to serve you then I will need to be where you are. So, that is why I am asking, "Where am I?" Am I in the right place? If I am not in the right place, how can I be where you are. **So, you're not really asking me about your geographic location?** No, I am not. **I knew that. I do however enjoy hearing you explain yourself to me.** That is why you ask me so many questions, isn't it? **Yes, that is why I ask you questions. I also know that you think more clearly when you explain your answers to me in some detail.**

So, your real question is how can you be where I am? That is where I need to be if I want to faithfully and fruitfully serve you. **Yes, that's right.** What do you think is the answer to your question? I knew you were going to ask me that. **That's good. Do you have an answer?** Yes, I do. If I want to be where you are then I will need to set aside all my so-called bright ideas and brilliant plans. **Why is that?** I have learned that you might not be in my bright ideas and brilliant plans. You might, and quite frequently do, have something entirely different in mind for me. **You've noticed?** Yes, I have noticed. Sometimes, I have had to labor fruitlessly to discover you weren't in my bright ideas and brilliant plans. **Those have been painful and frustrating discoveries for you.** Well, at least I have learned to seek to know and do your will. **That's good. How will you seek to know and do my will?** I will draw near to you. I will listen carefully to you. I will receive your instruction and follow your guidance. I will follow you to where you lead me to do what you ask of me. **You will have set aside your plan and take up my plan?** Yes, I will. **Then you will be able to faithfully and fruitfully serve me.** I will be working right where you have placed me. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I will set aside my so-called bright ideas and brilliant plans. I want to know and do your will. I don't want to wander off to do my own thing. I will follow you to where you lead me, so I can do what you ask of me. Help me to faithfully and fruitfully serve you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

NIV John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

NLT John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

NRSV John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Wherever I Am*

And Jesus answered them, The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified *and* exalted. I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains [just one grain; it never becomes more but lives] by itself alone. But if it dies, it produces many others *and* yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it, but anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. [Whoever has no love for, no concern for, no regard for his life here on earth, but despises it, preserves his life forever and ever.] If anyone serves Me, he must continue to follow Me [to cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying] and wherever I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

AMP John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

And Jesus *answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

NASB John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

ESV John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

NKJV John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. "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. "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.

MSG John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Where I Am*

Jesus replied that the time had come for him to return to his glory in heaven, and that "I must fall and die like a kernel of wheat that falls into the furrows of the earth. Unless I die I will be alone—a single seed. But my death will produce many new wheat kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. If you love your life down here—you will lose it. If you despise your life down here—you will exchange it for eternal glory. "If these Greeks want to be my disciples, tell them to come and follow me, for my servants must be where I am. And if they follow me, the Father will honor them.

TLB John 12:23-26

Becoming Like Christ *Everywhere I Am*

Jesus said to them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to receive his glory. I tell you the truth, a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die to make many seeds. But if it never dies, it remains only a single seed. Those who love their lives will lose them, but those who hate their lives in this world will keep true life forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Then my servant will be with me everywhere I am. My Father will honor anyone who serves me.

NCV John 12:23-26

Where I Am

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – John 12:23-26

In Context: *Read John 12*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12:23-26 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Jesus replied, | "The hour | has come | for | the Son of Man | to be | glorified. | I tell you | the truth, | unless a kernel | of wheat falls | to the ground | and | dies, | it remains only | a single seed. | But if it dies, | it produces | many seeds. | The man | who loves | his life | will lose it, | while | the man | who hates | his life | in this world | will keep it | for | eternal life. | Whoever serves me | must follow me; | and | where I am, | my servant also | will be. | My Father | will honor | the one | who serves me. John 12:23-26 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will set aside my so-called bright ideas and brilliant plans. I want to know and do your will. I don't want to wander off to do my own thing. I will follow you to where you lead me, so I can do what you ask of me. Help me to faithfully and fruitfully serve you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why can you not serve the Lord unless you follow Him to where He leads you?

When have you set aside your plans so you could follow and serve the Lord?

How has your plan been far different than the plan that the Lord has unfolded for you?

Where has the Lord led you and what has He given you to do for Him?

How has the Lord made you able to faithfully and fruitfully serve Him?

Why would you prefer nothing other than loving, following and serving the Lord?

What joy have you found in faithfully and fruitfully serving the Lord?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Follow the Lord to where He leads you so that you can faithfully and fruitfully serve Him.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will lead you to where He wants you to be so you can faithfully and fruitfully serve Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group where the Lord has led you to faithfully and fruitfully serve Him.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Where I Am

John 12

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you be where the Lord is so that you can fruitfully and fruitfully serve Him.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will be where you are so that I can faithfully and fruitfully serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I follow and faithfully and fruitfully serve you today?
