



ONE

One Way

Sunday 29th March 2026

John 12:20-26

What would be the hardest thing for you to give up?

What would be the hardest thing for anyone to give up?

1 Answer: **everything**.

Today I want you to see why it is the one way to truly follow Jesus.

First let us go back to the moment Jesus called some of the first disciples. In

2 **Matthew 4:18-20** we read,

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him

3 In **Mark 2:14** we read,

And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

4 In **John 1:43** it says,

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

When Jesus was saying follow me, it was not a try-before-you-buy option.

5 More of die-so-you-can-live.

He said it first like this in **Luke 9:23**,

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

What we naturally choose to do on any given day is what we want to do. There is nothing natural about denying yourself. But that's what He said. Why?

6 Because as Jesus said in **John 3:3**,

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Being born means exactly what it sounds like. Starting over as if nothing had gone before. An entirely new existence.

7 **Jesus is not an additive, a supplement, an add-on, a pick-me-up**, a work-out, or even lifestyle. He. Is. Jesus. **Saviour of a dying world**. Healer of the blind. Raiser of the dead. Friend to the friendless. The sacrificial lamb for sinners like you and me.

When we get to John 12, Jesus arrives in the form of a humble king, on a donkey. They wanted Him on their throne in their world, added-on, if you like. And then in the midst of all the noise and hubbub as the crowds gathered for Passover. Some Greeks had travelled and they happen to bump into Philip. In

8 **John 12:21** it says,

So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

So Philip finds another disciple Andrew and they bring this to Jesus, and this is what He says in **John 12:23-26**,

9 And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ 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.

What looked like a glorious moment that day to the crowds was a one-way journey to a cross and glory that will far outshine all they could have every hoped for.

10 He likened following Him to a grain of wheat being planted deep underground. Just like other seeds, - cumin, mustard, onion, coriander. We add seed to food for flavouring as an additive. But **if you want to bear much fruit – to live life in all its fullness – then you, every part of you, must die**. In dying, each seed brings about a harvest 30, 60, or even 100 times over.

There is only one way to follow Jesus – it’s to come and fully die so that you might fully live.