

Sermon Title: The Face of Christ

- **Introduction:**

Reflection on the installation of a friend as the dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London. The desire for people to see the face of Christ in the church.

- **Biblical Passage:** John 12:20-33

- a. Greeks come to see Jesus at the festival, signalling a pivotal moment in Jesus's ministry.
- b. Jesus realises that the time has come for the culmination of his life and ministry.

- **Significance of the Passage:**

- a. John's gospel differs from the others, emphasising Jesus's realisation of the approaching climax.
- b. Jesus's acknowledgment that his ministry must transcend earthly limitations.

- **Conclusion:**

The highest calling is to reflect the face of Christ to others, inviting them into a deeper understanding of divine love and compassion.

Discussion Points / Points to Ponder:

1. How does the metaphor of Greeks coming to see Jesus reflect the universal appeal of Christ's message?
2. What significance does Jesus's realisation of his impending fate hold for his disciples and followers?
3. How does the concept of seeing Christ manifest in modern-day society? Are there tangible examples of this in our communities?
4. The speaker emphasises the importance of demonstrating Christ's love through actions. How can individuals and churches actively embody Christ's teachings in today's world?
5. Discuss the idea of "seeing Christ" in others, especially those marginalised in society. How does recognizing the divine spark in every individual transform our interactions and perceptions?
6. Reflect on the universal vision of Jesus's role in drawing all people to himself. How does this challenge traditional boundaries and exclusivity within religious communities?
7. The sermon concludes with the call to emulate Christ by allowing others to see his face through our actions. What practical steps can individuals take to fulfil this calling in their daily lives?

Alternative questions:

1. How does the incident of Greeks coming to see Jesus relate to the broader theme of Jesus's universal mission, as discussed in the sermon?
2. Reflecting on Jesus's realisation that his time has come, what significance does this hold for understanding the culmination of his ministry and its impact beyond his earthly life?
3. The speaker highlights the importance of "seeing Christ" in others and allowing others to see Christ in oneself. How does this concept challenge traditional religious practices and attitudes?
4. Discuss the shift in societal attitudes towards religion, as mentioned in the sermon. How does this shift influence the way Christians are called to embody Christ's teachings in contemporary society?
5. Drawing from the sermon's emphasis on action and service, what are some practical ways individuals and churches can demonstrate Christ's love and compassion to others, particularly those marginalised in society?
6. Consider Jesus's statement, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself." How does this statement expand the understanding of Jesus's role beyond being solely the Jewish Messiah, and what implications does it have for Christian discipleship today?