



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



“Are You Ready to See Jesus?”

Dismantling Racism: Council of Bishops Lenten Devotional Series

Bishop Christian Alsted, Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area

March 17, 2021

Scripture: John 12:20-26

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, 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. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their 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.

Key points:

- The Jesus of the scripture was one who embraced the “outsider,” called out hypocrisy and practiced self-emptying love.
- In too many places success and advancement in society is tied to skin color and religious affiliation rather than the content of a person’s character.
- Jesus wants to shape our character so that we might be more like him.

Questions for contemplation:

1. Do you want to see the biblical Jesus who challenges our ideas and convicts our hard-heartedness or are you looking for the Jesus that confirms your beliefs, biases, preferences and perspectives?
2. How is your character shaped by the life and example of Jesus Christ?
3. Are you ready to hand over your life completely to God’s care?

Journal Prompt: What is God saying to you through this week’s devotion?
