

Lent 5 – John chapter 12, verses 20 - 33:-

In many churches the Fifth Sunday in Lent is still known as Passion Sunday. In my school days I remembered these last Sundays in Lent as ‘Mothering’; ‘Carlin’; ‘Palm’ and ‘Easter’. (Carlins are small dried peas – the bottom of the store cupboard in Lent! Apparently only known in the north of England and Scotland).

Note that the Gospel for the 5th Sunday in Lent comes immediately after the Triumphant Entry of Palm Sunday in the Gospel of John. Chapter 12, verse 19 provides a ‘link’ between the two readings.

“... look, the world has gone after him.”

Verses 20 – 22:- “the world” is represented by “some Greeks.” These would have been Gentile ‘God-fearers’ come to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Notice that they do not come directly to the Lord Jesus but to the disciples who act as messengers, taking the request to Jesus himself.

In the pulpit of Cullompton church there is (or was) a small plaque in front of the preacher “*Sir, we would see Jesus!*”. The task of every disciple of the Lord Jesus is to bring others to him.

Note that ‘Philip’ (lover of horses) and ‘Andrew’ (manly) were the only two of the twelve apostles whose names were of Greek origin. The ‘Greek’ gentiles would naturally look towards them for help.

Verses 23 – 26:- This is an indirect reply from the Lord Jesus maybe because He saw it as an answer to the prophecy in Isaiah chapter 42, verses 1 – 4, quoted in Matthew chapter 12, verses 14 – 21. The ‘harvest’ would only come after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Note that the ‘fruit’ of this harvest is numerical – as in the Parable of the Sower etc. To be a follower of the Lord Jesus is to live and maybe die by his standards. Through him we inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Verses 27 – 33:- At the beginning of these verses there is a foreshadowing of the agony of Gethsemane. This is the third time that the voice of the Father is heard (also at the Baptism and the Transfiguration). It is important to note that in the Gospel of John, the ‘glorification’ of the Lord Jesus Christ takes place at his crucifixion! The “*judgement of this world*” and “*the ruler of this world*” ‘being cast out’ took place when Jesus was “*lifted up from the earth*”, see John chapter 3, verses 14 – 15 again!

His throne was a cross; His crown one of thorns :- “Here is your King!” (John chapter 19, verse 14)

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| 1) Jesus, the name high over all
in hell or earth or sky;
angels and men before it fall
and devils fear and fly,
and devils fear and fly. | 2) Jesus, the name to sinners dear,
the name to sinners given;
it scatters all their guilty fear,
it turns their hell to heaven,
it turns their hell to heaven. |
| 3) Jesus the prisoner's fetters breaks
and bruises Satan's head;
power into strength-less souls he speaks
and life into the dead,
and life into the dead. | 4) O that the world might taste and see
the riches of his grace!
The arms of love that welcome me
would all mankind embrace,
would all mankind embrace. |
| 5) His righteousness alone I show,
his saving truth proclaim;
this is my work on earth below,
to cry, 'Behold the Lamb!'
to cry, 'Behold the Lamb!' | 6) Happy if with my final breath
I may but gasp his name,
preach him to all, and cry in death,
'Behold, behold the Lamb!'
'Behold, behold the Lamb!' |

Charles Wesley 1749