

## Jesus and the Superbowl

### John 12.20-36

This week as I was out and about, I went in to various businesses. Most this week, from customers to the owners have had Cardinal attire. Cardinals are everywhere. Later today, many will watch to see if the Superbowl is in the Cards.

Now being a proud son of Arizona, it's ok to hoorah Arizona in whatever has brought national spotlight and acclaim to Arizona. But as we enjoy what is happening today, may I take this from the football field to the harvest field?

In this morning's passage, Andrew and Philip encountered a couple of different types of people. There were first some God-fearing Greeks who sought the truth. They were not about seeing what Jesus can do, like a circus side show. Then there was the crowd questioning Jesus. How can Jesus be the Messiah if he was planning on being crucified on a cross?

But it was in Jesus' answer in all of this that we need to pay attention to. There are 2 statements that he made. The most known: "when I am lifted up from the earth, shall draw all men to me." But prior to that, he stated, "Father, glorify your name." In researching this, Jesus was at a crisis, which is also Greek for judgment or decision. His crisis was to call God to save him from the cross, or to have God be glorified by going to the cross. Our question becomes how do we live a life that glorifies God? How do we live a life that lifts up Jesus?

**1. *Be Open. Plays work when receiver is open to catching the ball.***

Philip and Andrew were open to talking to whoever came along. In this passage, Gentiles came to see Jesus. They could have turned them away, but instead they went to Jesus.

**2. *Work as a Team. Kicker kicks field goal because effort of team.***

So often we feel we must go alone, and yet Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs. Many times when I help someone to come to Christ, it came from the work done before I was brought in. So when there is an effort based upon one or a small few, then it comes to naught in long term. Not to mention, its not about FCC, its about Christ.

**3. *Watch the Clock. If the clock is not watched, team can be called for delay of game, or find the game over after its too late.***

Jesus spoke with double meaning, obviously with the crucifixion talk, but also with verse 36. Immediately, Jesus will be taken away. Long term, time is short. Mett 24.43 Jesus says his return will come like a thief in the night. We do not know how long before it shall be too late for those seeking Christ. It is why we should work with some urgency. Mat 9.37, fields are ready, workers are few.

When we have these 3 lessons down, and best way for learning is with the Word, with God in prayer, with the family in fellowship, then we will be able to lift Jesus high, and glorify the Father.

This morning, I am not nay saying the Superbowl. Go watch it. Enjoy. But as you do, let me encourage you with this...The excitement you show for the Cardinals, or dare I say the Steelers, may it pale in comparison with your excitement for the Goal of Christ.