

John 12:23-24 6th Wed. in Lent @ Immanuel, Mercedes Mar. 25, 2026
Jesus' Personal Passion Prophecies Reassure A Real Resurrection

23) Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24) Amen, amen I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."

INTRO: Spring began Friday at 9:46 AM. It was spring in Israel. Wheat would have sprouted and the grain fields would have been green.

I. THE BACKGROUND OF THIS PROPHECY PARABLE

A. Six days before the Passover (12:1)

1. Bethany supper; Martha; Mary anointed; Lazarus risen (ch.11)
2. next day, crowds, hosannas, and palm branches (12:12)
3. thousands in Jerusalem from all over the world
4. some Greeks had asked Philip: "We would see Jesus"
5. but Jesus was sent to the 'house of Israel'
6. here uses a nature story, not Old Testament quote

B. About parables, in general

1. definition: earthly story with a heavenly meaning
2. many in the Bible; most told by Jesus
3. more often doctrinal and practical; not so much about Himself
4. purpose = require hearer to think, remember
5. this parable is a personal prophecy of His Passion

C. Rules for interpreting parables

1. determine the setting and circumstances
2. note to whom it's spoken and why, if discernable
3. find the point of comparison
4. stick to the point; draw no doctrine from the details

II. THE POINT OF COMPARISON OF THIS BRIEF PARABLE

A. The 'tertium' is in the 'dying'

1. seeds falls into the ground; dies after being planted
2. obvious fact of agriculture (and life!)
3. enigma: in so dying, it begets life and produces more grain
4. what seemed to be the end, was in fact, the beginning

B. Dying is necessary for fruit to be produced

1. v.24 'unless' indicates that it is essential; sine qua non
2. no crop if seed stays in bin; must die in the soil
3. cross was absolutely essential in God's plan
4. 'remains alone' = Jesus without us

(continued)

5. 'much fruit' = Jews, Greeks, visitors; millions; ages

6. multiplied, especially with subsequent plantings

7. impressive results from a seed's dying (literally and parabolically)

C. Parable prophesies coming Crucifixion, burial, resurrection

1. even nature teaches us a resurrection

a. beautiful lily from ugly bulb; butterfly from cocoon

b. yet neither bears **abundant** fruit

2. this parable is introduced with "the hour has come"

a. 7:6 - brothers dared Him to go to Jerusalem

b. 7:30 - previous arrest attempt at Jerusalem had failed

3. v.24 begins with double amen; si si

4. v.23 'glorified' by perfect obedience and victorious resurrection

III. APPLICATION OF THIS PARABLE TO OUR LIVES TODAY

A. Death is still a fact of life

1. observing nature and this parable teaches us so

2. Scripture has explained **why** we die

a. brought on by Adam in Eden

b. born sinful by nature; mortal

c. contribute greatly by our sin, unfruitfulness

3. it does no good to ignore or deny death

4. and it is useless to worry about it

5. it is important for us to be ready for our 'hour'

B. There is something after death for us

1. this parable teaches it (contrast kernel w/green plant)

2. Jesus' resurrection illustrates and exemplifies it

3. Scripture explains it

a. judgment comes the 'hour' each of us dies (thief: 'today')

b. eternal punishment, or...

c. eternal bliss (because I live, ye shall live also; even though he were dead, yet shall he live)

4. to be experienced by our resurrected bodies (seed; Jesus)

C. Through Jesus, we are assured of eternal life

1. He died and rose, just as He prophesied

2. He's the promised 'seed' to Abraham, et alii

3. all who trust Him alone, will live with Him

CONCLUSION: You and I who trust Jesus are just some of the fruit which resulted from His death and burial and resurrection. We are His fruit, and we bear fruit as we live lives giving thanks and praise to Him. Amen.