“If Anyone Serves Me, Let Him Follow Me”

Intro: As we journey through the ______________ of John each new chapter and verse unfolds before us a most beautiful truth whereby we are drawn closer and closer to ____________, even as He draws closer to the ____________.

A. In the paragraph of Holy Writ before us today, yet another petal of the gospel opens for as we’ve read that the Lord ____________ will ________ for the sins of His brethren (the believing Jews), today we will come to understand that He will also die for the sins of the world (______ believing ______________ also), and of His invitation to follow Him.

I. In a progressive unfolding of the ______________ John turns our attention away from the Jewish peoples by introducing “certain ____________.”

A. The “certain ____________” “came to Philip” “and began to ask him, saying, ‘Sir, we wish to _______ ____________.’”

1. ____________ first came and told ____________ and then together they came and told ____________.

II. “Jesus answered [the Greeks], saying, ‘The ____________ has come for the ___________ of Man to be ______________.’”

A. This is the first time that we hear our Lord say that His _______ ____________.

B. The title “Son of Man” is an unmistakable reference to the ______________ which comes to us from the messianic prophecy of Daniel 7:13-14.

C. After calling the people to listen very intently, Jesus began to ____________ that the Son of Man would be glorified by His _______ and resurrection, and the gaining of many ______________!

1. The good news is that ____________ Jesus’ _______ and resurrection He would bear much fruit; fruit from among the nations! Let the nations be glad for through His death and ______________ Jesus brings His other (Greek/Gentile) sheep into the fold (the household of God)! Through His death and resurrection Jesus “__________(s) together into one the ______________ of God who are scattered abroad.”

2. We rejoice that “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” for ____________ _______ _______ _____! He died that we who were not the beloved might be called “the beloved children of God,” being the fruit of His sacrificial labor.
D. As the Lord’s analogy of the seed pointed to Himself and what He would do for the salvation of men, He then pointed to the ____________ of men to ____________ in Him.

1. If a man is saved (believes in Christ) he will ____________ his plan and ____________ in the plan of God. Such a man who hates “his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal.”

2. Jesus announced the proper and ____________ response of those who would deny themselves in love for Him. If anyone will serve Him, they must ____________ Him.

E. The Lord ____________ everlasting ______ to all (Jew and Gentile alike) who serve Him. And this is the promise of Christ: that where [He] is, there shall [His] servants also be ...” Those who serve Christ will live with Christ. Jesus said, John 14:3, "... I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and ____________ you to ____________; that where I am, there you may be also."

1. And the promise continues for Jesus said, “if anyone serves Me, the ____________ will ____________ him.”
   a. No wonder the Apostle said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the ____________ that is to be ____________ to us” (Romans 8:18).
   b. As the lyrics of the song “A Mighty Fortress” says, “______ goods and kindred ____ , this mortal life also; The body they may kill: ______ truth abideth still, His kingdom is ____________.”

Conclusion: In receiving Christ for who He is, as Savior and Lord, it matters not who you are for He has promised salvation to all who follow Him for “there is no distinction between Greek and Jew ... but _________ _____ and in all (Col. 3:11). Therefore, the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Eph. 3:6).

Here is the necessary response of salvation: Jesus said, “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me.” Good news! "_______________ in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved ...” (Acts 16:31).