



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. (John 12:24-26)

The above passage comes from the fourth gospel, which is attributed to Jesus' disciple, John, the son of Zebedee. In a way that is similar to Mark, Jesus speaks of his forthcoming death. He uses a unique illustration in John's account by speaking of a kernel of wheat. One kernel is insufficient for sustenance; you cannot make a loaf of bread with it. You need a lot of seeds to make enough flour for even a cracker. Yet, if that one seed falls to the ground and gives up its life (dies) it can produce an entire plant, which then produces many seeds that can make a loaf of bread.

Jesus explains that if we love our lives here on earth and we do all that we can to hoard what we have and glorify ourselves, that is all we receive. However, if we are willing to sacrifice (hate) our lives here in this world, we can invest in eternal things; we can be a part of bringing God's kingdom to earth by sharing what we have with others and caring for them.

Jesus concludes in verse 26 that if we want to serve Jesus, we must strive to follow his ways. We go where he goes and do what he does. We are his servants by serving others like Jesus modeled for us. This is what honors God.



REFLECTION:

Consider how Jesus serves you each day and celebrate his love with thanksgiving.

PRACTICE:

Take one of the ways that Jesus serves you and serve someone else in this same way.