A Life Worth Living  
John 12:23-26

A. The Cost (vs. 20-24):

1. **Greeks** – The Greeks came for answers as Christ prepared to die.
2. **Answered** – Jesus responds to the question from the Greeks with a message we must now make as pattern for our daily lives.
3. **The hour has come** – This is the determined time that God put in place. It is a time that was determined by the Lord. No turning back.
4. **Come** – The disciples need to fix their mind to believe in what God is about to do.
5. **Glorified** – The time has come to bring to light who Christ is in His full revelation.
6. **Glorified** – The time that is coming exposes God’s love at its best.
7. **Truly, truly** – What Christ is repeatedly saying is emphatically going to be so. As a result, this is Christ fervent desire for us to exercise our faith (‘So be it’ or ‘it shall be so’ ‘Amen’ ‘let it be so’ thus it shall be).
8. **A grain of wheat falls** – A one-time decision to submit to God’s will. This is a person who makes a one-time decision to fall like a tower on a building falling down.
9. **A grain of wheat falls** – Submission to God is letting go of anything that competes with obeying Him.
10. **Die** – We must renounce or abandon anything that does not allow us to be totally confirmed to Christ death (Luke 14:26-27). Being about God’s business should be everything we do at all cost (Philippians 1:21; 3:7-11).
11. **Remains** – The seed must remain in place to die. We must stand firm or steadfast in being about God’s business if we are going to experience denying ourselves.
12. **Bear fruit** – If we remain, no matter the difficulties we experience, the Holy Spirit’s power presents evidence that Christ is real, and the will of God is true. What is the true nature of the tree will become evident if the seed remains in the ground and dies.
13. **Bear fruit** – The Holy Spirit controls us when we die to self.

B. The Lifestyle to Adopt (vs. 25):

1. **He who loves** – A person who is persistently bound to their desires with a deep obligation to fulfill them.
2. **He who loses** – This person can be cut off from the inner working of the Holy Spirit (John 15:5).
3. **Hate his life** – Consistently has a strong dislike for what is contrary to the will of God. When a person consistently has a strong dislike or disregard for the way they think or feel when it contradicts God’s Word, they will despise their ‘life in this world.’
4. **Hates his life** – Living for Christ makes us different from what the world thinks.
5. **Life in this world** – A person who despises what the fallen rebellious world propagates. This person is not controlled by what is taking place externally.
6. **Will keep it** – A person perves their life when they guard God’s Word in their hearts like David (Psalm 119:11).
7. **Will keep it** – A person who lives for Christ over time develops a greater discipline for His Word.
8. **Life is the Crown of life** – If the Christian meets the testing of life with a steadfast spirit which Christ can give, life becomes infinitely more splendid than it ever was before. This person, at the judgment seat of Christ receives the crown of life (Rev. 2:10):
   a) Quite often in both the NT and OT, crowns are symbols of God’s blessings on His people - The Greek word for “crown” here (stephanos) probably refers not to a royal crown but to the laurel wreath given to victorious athletes - The “crown that offers life” is also an eschatological promise of reward (Prov 1:9; 4:9; 12:4; 16:31; 17:6.

9. **Life eternal** – The life which is God's continues with unbroken duration to an endlessness experience of Christ. Having a great beginning but no end.

C. **The Prize to Gain (vs. 26):**

1. **If anyone serves Me** – A believer who chooses to continuously live like a slave before Christ willing to do whatever He ask of them.
2. **Follow** – A believer’s faithfulness establishes the Lordship of Christ directing their lives. To continually follow Jesus denotes a fellowship of faith as well as a fellowship of life and sharing in His sufferings (Philippians 3:7-11).
3. **Where I am** – Wherever Christ instructs us to do or wherever He sends us we will trust Him completely because we believe that He is and will always be.
4. **There my servant** – This slave remains with Christ in death or in life because they view themselves as fully belonging to God.
5. **If anyone serves Me** – A believers who chooses to continuously live like a slave before Christ is willing to do whatever He ask of them.
6. **My Father** - God is the one who began this walk of faith. The one who is the instrument of our spiritual birth, by converting us to the Christian faith, and is the author and beginning of everything. God is the one who is the author of our faith.
   a) God acts as our Father. He rewards us (Matt. 6:1); disciplines us (John 15:2); listens to our prayers (Matt. 6:6); knows and meets our needs (Luke 12:30); gives us good gifts (Matt. 7:11); is merciful to us (Luke 6:36); and dearly loves us (John 16:27). O.T. saints knew that God was “like a Father” to Israel. Jesus brings the awesome God of the O.T. into fresh, intimate perspective. He is “our Father.”
7. **Honor** – God will lift up, respect the slave who endlessly, no matter the suffering, faithfully served and walked with the Lord.
8. **There are several incorruptible crowns (1 Corinthians 9:25):**
   a) Crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4).
   b) Crown of life (James 1:12).
   c) Crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8; Revelation 2:10).
   d) We can share Christ throne (Rev. 3:21-22).