

## BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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*SEE.* “Sir, we wish to SEE Jesus.” John 12:21. Alex Graham in 1953 in *The New Yorker* magazine had a cartoon depicting extraterrestrial aliens landing on earth and talking to a horse, “*Take us to your president.*” Soon afterward the phrase became “*Take me to your leader*” and has been used ever since to tell someone that a person wants to meet/SEE the person in charge. For instance, we want to SEE the manager or chef of a restaurant to compliment or complain about the meal or service. When something is not getting done on a project we want to talk to the person in charge. Pastors or officers of the church are contacted when someone has an issue. “*Who’s in charge here?*” is often heard when someone does not like what is being done or said and wants to SEE the boss. Too often there is “*passing the buck*” rather than being part of the solution. President Truman had a sign on his presidential desk, “*The buck stops here.*”

John’s Gospel, chapter 12, in a very few verses, describes important details of Jesus’ ministry a few weeks before His death which was before and during Passover. In the first verses Jesus is at the home of Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus who Jesus raised from the dead. Mary took “...a pound of costly perfume...” and washed Jesus’ feet with it. Judas Iscariot complained that the perfume could have been sold and given to the poor. As the treasurer of the disciples, Judas’ motive was to get the money because he was stealing money from the treasury. Then Jesus rode through Jerusalem (Palm Sunday). The Festival of the Passover begins and Greeks were there, too, for the festival. The Greeks meet Philip (one of Jesus’ disciples) and said to him, “*Take me/us to your leader—We wish to SEE Jesus*” and yet we never know if they met Jesus. Jesus, instead, begins to talk about His end days.

As people of faith, who/what do we SEE Jesus to be? Do we just want to visit Jesus or does “SEE-ing” Jesus make a difference in our lives? It is important to know what Jesus did—the preaching, healing, journeys, birth, life, death, resurrection—but until we encounter Jesus as the Christ or Savior, Jesus might just be a figment of our imaginations or a historical figure without spiritual importance. The story of Jesus is just that until we SEE Jesus for who He is. Do we seriously hear His call to us to change our lives? It is SEE-ing Jesus with more than physical eyes, for we need to SEE Him with our hearts, minds and spirits. We are never the same when we SEE the love, forgiveness and welcome Jesus offers and gives us. In Jesus we SEE God who generously grants us gifts and graces to share with one another. “*We wish to SEE Jesus,*” for in that SEE-ing we are changed and we become life living solvers of gracious love with peace and justice for all.

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