

In today's reading from the prophet Jeremiah, God recalls the covenant He'd made with the Jewish people as He led them out of Egyptian slavery -- a covenant they subsequently broke. So He speaks of a day when there will be a "new covenant," where His law will be written on the hearts of man; a time when they would know Him, and their sins forgiven.

Jump ahead 500 years and we read in the Gospel that "the hour has come..." It is time for the Son of Man to be glorified, which entails Him dying to self (and in Jesus' case, literally) like a grain of wheat to produce much fruit.

In His humanity, Jesus admits He is "troubled now" by what is soon to occur. But He doesn't back away. He knows that this is His purpose and says "Father, glorify your name."

Jesus was the seed at His hour - His passion, death and resurrection. He was obedient to the Father's will and so the result was a rich harvest - our salvation.

How often do we have the courage to do the same - to follow the Father's will for our lives?

If we are to bear much fruit, we must die with Jesus because, apart from His death, our sacrifice is meaningless. This is why He said to follow him. We need to rid ourselves of the things that keep us from living in a way that will lead to eternal life...things of this world.

Jesus made the choice to bear fruit when, in the Garden, He said, "Not my will, but thine, be done" because He knew this was God's plan. We must remember this when **OUR** hour comes. Will we lay at the foot of the cross our greed, pride, resentment, selfishness, fear? Will we return to **HIM** with all our hearts?

~ Karen Burns