Everyone wanted to hear what Jesus had to say. There were some Greeks in the crowd who wanted to see Jesus. They asked Philip, Philip asked Andrew, ⊛ and then they both asked Jesus. Jesus wondered how he could put into words all he wanted to say, especially for people who spoke different languages. 'It is time for the Son of Man to be glorified,' he said. What other words would help them understand? 'A single grain of wheat is simply a seed, but if it falls into the earth and dies, it will bear a lot of wheat.

'Those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for ever. Whoever follows me must be my servant and should go wherever I go. God will honour everyone who serves me.' So Jesus spoke words of death and life, of loss and gain, of serving and honouring. But sometimes the right words were hard to find.

'Now my soul is troubled,' said Jesus. 'What should I say? Father, save me from what lies ahead? No, I have come to this moment for a reason. Father, your name be glorified.' So Jesus spoke words of courage and obedience. Then a voice came from heaven: 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' ⊛ The crowd, standing there, heard the voice and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' God spoke words of promise. Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the time for the world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.' Jesus spoke these words about his death, and hinted at what would happen afterwards.

John 12.20-33

⊛ See *Share the Word*.