

## GOSPEL PEARLS

# The whirlwind of love

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*Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him. "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'" Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. (John 12: 20-33)*

This Gospel passage, in which the Greeks want to see Jesus, is the first prophetic sign of what will happen after Jesus' death and resurrection: this proclamation will be first addressed to the Jewish people and then throughout the entire pagan world. Moreover, Jesus prepares His disciples for His apparently most unsuccessful moment: His death. However, His dying on the Cross will instead become a fundamental step towards His ultimate glorification. Have we ever thanked Jesus for drawing us into his whirlwind of

love?