WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING ONTO?

John 12:24–28

Main Thought

The thing we grip the hardest is the thing we're losing, and the thing we hand over is the thing we keep. Jesus said it about a seed, then about us, and before he asked it of anybody, he did it himself.

1. One Grain (vv. 23–24) Jesus' hour has come, and it means going into the ground. A seed kept safe on the shelf stays alone. Everything that has grown since came out of one grain that was willing to be planted. *"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" (John 12:24).*	**2. What You're Holding Onto (v. 25)** "Loses it" is happening right now. The gripping is the losing. "Hates his life" means ranking, not despising. Money, a grudge, control, our good name, the plan: whatever we squeeze is running out between our fingers. *"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25).*
3. He Must Follow (v. 26) An open hand is for following. Where Jesus goes, to a cross, a tomb, and out alive, his servant goes too. And the Father gives honor, not wages. *"If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:26).*	**Key Scriptures** *John 12:23–28 · Matthew 10:37*

What are you gripping right now that might be running out between your fingers?

The next time it comes up this week, what would it look like to open your hand and take a step?

"Father, glorify your name" (John 12:28).

The gripping is the losing. And he opened his hand first.