

# The 'born leader'

coming signalled the end of their meal.

A word about today's reading. The word is hour. In John's Gospel, the word hour, refers to that culminating action, the crucifixion of Christ.

It's interesting though, in the Greek, the noun 'hour' is related to the adjective translated as, seasonable, ripe, fair, beautiful, lovely and pleasant.

Christ's hour is ripe in some way.

This ties us in with the central metaphor in the reading. To die, as Christ will die, is fruitful, as a seed planted in the ground is fruitful. The seed sown will provide a rich harvest.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus' crucifixion is beautiful. It is producing a rich harvest. The harvest is people: people enriched and full of life.

Another layer in today's reading is that seven weeks after the feast of passover, the feast of Weeks or First Fruits is celebrated. This is the feast that celebrates the end of the grain harvest. For John's readers it also coincides with Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples.



## Jews for Jesus

Ron Dial (right), a representative from the "Jews for Jesus Ministry," addressed Georgetown Knox Presbyterian Church Minister Peter Barrow (right) and the church's congregation in a special service Sunday at the church. As a member of the Jews for Jesus Ministry, of which the Canadian headquarters is located in Toronto, Mr. Dial is a Jew who believes that Jesus is the Messiah. During his presentation, Mr. Dial explained the Jewish passover meal. He told the congregation the meal is the root for the contemporary Christian Communion Service. (Herald photo)

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
John 12:20-33  
March 17, 1991

"I'm a born leader." Evan and Gord are having supper in an outdoor cafe. It's the first warm day in the spring and the streets are crowded with people.

Evan has been talking since they sat down. He began by reciting all of his concerns. His concerns happen to deal with everything he's bought in the last month.

His chief concern, of course, is the house that's being built for he and his wife, a house that he hopes to move into in the summer. The house increases exponentially the things Evan can buy, so he has lots to talk about.

While Evan has spoken about his religious search for the ideal automatic garage-opener, dishwasher, air conditioner and window coverings, people of all ages have been walking by: an older couple, arm in arm, he with his immaculately pressed forty-year-old suit, she with her equally old wool suit and new spring coat; a bag lady has removed her several layers of coats and walks by in a sleeveless dress; young couples, hand in hand, stop to read the menu outside an Indian restaurant across the street; five young men head off to the sidewalk bar a few blocks away; and a gang of eight to ten-year-old boys on bikes weave in and



Religion and Reality  
by  
Jim Ryan

out among the walkers.

Having finished talking about the various upgrades he has wrangled out of his builder, Evan made the above statement. Apparently his astrological sign indicates that he's a born leader.

And then, "God has blessed us."

Gord knew that Evan was coming to the end of his recitation.

"I mean, we've worked for it, what with my responsibilities at the church and at work, but we've been blessed: Our house will be a retreat, a sacred place, away from all those twits.

Sometimes I wonder if leadership is for me, but then I think, yeah, I've been chosen.

Gord reached for his wallet as he saw their waiter approach the table. He was thankful for this smiling, friendly man whose

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