



WEEK 2 HANDOUT – The Son’s Death Draws Near

BAND of BROTHERS SPRING/2021

Key Verse: *“For this purpose I have come to this hour.”* – John 12:27 ESV

- **Lazarus: An amazing death-to-life story**

- Lazarus got a new lease on life
 - But it was **temporal**, not **eternal**
 - He would have to die a second time
- His death had been **ineffective**
 - It failed to **satisfy** the just demands of God
 - Because of sin, he deserved **death**, not **life**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23 ESV

- But his death did have an **impact**

*Many of **the Jews** therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.* – John 12:45-46 ESV

“the Jews” – This is a reference to the Jewish religious leaders

- They had Jesus under 24-hour surveillance
- The raising of Lazarus turned some into believers
- But others remained skeptical and resentful

- **A conflict of interests**

- The Jewish religious leaders were concerned by what they heard

*“What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both **our place** and **our nation**.”* – John 11:47-48 ESV

- Jesus had just raised a dead man to life
- But they were more interested in preserving their **way of life**
- And they perceived Jesus as a threat

- The prophecy of Caiaphas, the high priest

“...it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” – John 11:50 ESV

- God spoke through this flawed high priest
 - Caiaphas was saying that Jesus’ death would **preserve their way of life**
 - But God was saying that Jesus’ death would **provide the way to eternal life**
 - Caiaphas was right: Jesus’ death **would be** beneficial

- The fulfillment of Jesus

...Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. – John 11:51-52 ESV

- Jesus would die on behalf of Jews and Gentiles
- He would be the Savior of the world
- And he had told the religious leaders about this

*“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and **there will be one flock with one shepherd**.”* – John 10:14-16
ESV

- But the Jewish religious leaders decide to murder the Messiah

So from that day on they made plans to put him to death. – John 11:53 ESV

- **The “hour” draws near**

- Six days before the Feast of Passover, Jesus returns to Bethany
 - This is where He had raised Lazarus from the dead
 - Mary, Martha, and Lazarus throw a feast in Jesus’ honor
 - Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with perfume and wipes them with her hair
- Another conflict of interests:

MARY	JUDAS
Grateful	Greedy
Selfless	Self-serving
Sacrificial	Sanctimonious
Believer	Opportunist
Worshiper	Thief
Anointer	Betrayer

- Judas was in it for what he could get out of it
- Mary saw the perfume as a way of blessing Jesus
- Judas saw the perfume as a way of benefiting himself

- The growing crowd

*When **the large crowd** of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. – John 12:9 ESV*

- Judas had become a local celebrity
- Jesus was already famous
- And together, they attracted large crowds
- Which infuriated the Jewish religious leaders

So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. – John 12:10-11 ESV

• **The Triumphal Entry**

*The next day **the large crowd** that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” – John 12:12-13 ESV*

“the next day” – Sunday

“the feast” – the one that was held in Bethany

“the large crowd” – those who had gone to see Jesus and Lazarus

***The crowd** that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. – John 12:17 ESV*

- The influence of “the crowd”
 - These people had come from Bethany
 - Where Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead
 - They had witnessed the glory of God (11:40)

- Now, they were giving glory to Jesus
hosanna – Give salvation now!

- The thoughts of the disciples
 - This was the high point for Jesus' disciples
 - Their hopes were about to be realized
 - Jesus was going to set up His kingdom!
 - The prophecies were being fulfilled

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* – Zechariah 9:9 ESV

- The reaction of the religious leaders

*“You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, **the world** has gone after him.”* – John 12:19 ESV

- Another prophetic statement
- The world would end up going after Jesus
- And it began with a handful of Greeks
- They make a request to see Jesus

*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.”* – John 12:20-21 ESV

- The response of Jesus

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 honor him. – John 12:23-26 ESV

- Jesus talks about His glorification, but also death and life
- And, once again, He stresses His offer of **eternal life**
 - This is the ultimate reward
 - It's not this life on steroids, but a new life altogether
 - It includes: a new nature
a new body and

a renewed relationship with God

- But it comes at a high price

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. – 1 John 4:9-10 ESV

God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

- **The gathering gloom**

“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. – John 12:27 ESV

- Jesus knew what was coming
- He was fully aware of all the pain and suffering He would have to endure

*But he was **pierced** for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.*

*He was **beaten** so we could be whole.*

*He was **whipped** so we could be healed.*

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God’s paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on him

the sins of us all. – Isaiah 53:5-6 ESV

- But even facing death, Jesus sought to glorify His Father

“Father, glorify your name.” – John 12:28 ESV

And God responded: ***“I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” – John 12:28***

- God had been glorified by Jesus’ **life**
- Now He would be glorified through His **death**

- A pivotal point in human history

“Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.” – John 12:31 ESV

- Death and Satan would be defeated
 - The righteous wrath of God would be satisfied
 - The criteria for judging the world would be set
 - The free gift of redemption would be available
 - All because the Son of Man would be “lifted up”
- It would all require that “the light” be extinguished

*“The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have **the light**, lest **darkness** overtake you. The one who walks in **the darkness** does not know where he is going. While you have **the light**, believe in **the light**, that you may become **sons of light**.” – John 12:35-36 ESV*

- **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

- In what ways can we “walk in the light” while surrounded by the darkness of this world?
- Jesus admitted that His soul was “troubled” How should that admission comfort us?
- In verse 25, what do you think Jesus meant by loving or hating one’s life. What might that look like for us today? And why is it important??