

JOHN 12:1-50

March 24, 2021

1. With John 12, the public ministry of Jesus comes to an end, so this chapter could be called the turning point in Jesus' ministry. Jesus is less than a week away from His crucifixion. Before we begin reading John 12, look back at John 11:53-57 and record the scene leading up to John 12.
2. Read John 12:1-8. What event happened prior to this dinner that made this a joyful occasion? Review John 11:38-44 for reference.

List the people present at this dinner in Bethany.

Look at the words and actions of the people present. What do you learn about each one's attitude toward Jesus?

3. According to John 12:3, what did Mary do that caused tension in the room?

The perfume that Mary used was made of pure nard, which is an expensive and fragrant oil used only for special occasions in biblical times. John records Mary had a pound of this perfume, worth one year's wages. What words would you use to describe Mary's actions?

4. According to John 12:4-6, how did Judas respond to Mary's act of worship?

What was Judas' true motive, and what might this tell us about his relationship with Jesus?

Although it is not recorded, how do you think Mary responded to Judas' rebuke and Jesus' defense?

5. Continue by reading John 12:9-11. Many Jews have come to Jerusalem for the Passover hoping to see Jesus. Who else have they come to see? Why do they want to see him according to verse 9?

The plan to kill Jesus had been set in place. Why do the religious leaders also want to kill Lazarus now?

6. Regardless of what these religious leaders planned, God's eternal plan would determine the precise time Jesus would die. What does Acts 2:23 record about God's timing for His Son's redemptive work on the cross?

God has precisely timed plans for each of us as well. As we pray, we often make our plans known to God only to be disappointed with how and when He chooses to answer our prayer. Read Psalm 32:8 and Jeremiah 29:11. What do you learn about God in these verses that helps you trust His plans and timing for you?

7. Read John 12:12-19. In your own words, how would you describe the response of the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem?

The crowd was shouting, "Hosanna!" which means "save now." They were also declaring Jesus the King of Israel. What did they misunderstand about Jesus, their King? Read John 18:36-37.

8. Read Zechariah 9:9 along with John 12:14-15. What more do we learn from the Zechariah passage about Jesus' triumphant entry?

What characteristics does Jesus display by riding a donkey into Jerusalem?

9. Read John 12:20-26. How does Jesus' statement recorded in verse 23 differ from what is recorded in John 7:30 and John 8:20?

Jesus' death is imminent, yet many still believed He would rule over an earthly kingdom. What truth does Jesus convey to them in John 12:24-26? Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.

10. Continue by reading John 12:27-36. When God spoke and confirmed the work of His Son, many heard, but few understood. How did the crowd describe the voice of God?

The Son of Man being lifted up is a reference to Jesus' death on the cross. The crowd continues to struggle with the truth the Messiah, the Son of Man, would die. In your own words, explain Jesus' response to the crowd found in verses 30-33.

11. Read John 12:36b-43. In spite of all the miracles Jesus performed, many in the crowd still did not believe in Him, just as the prophet Isaiah had foretold. Yet many did believe in Jesus. Why did they not confess their belief?

What are some reasons we might be afraid to confess to others our faith in Jesus?

12. Read carefully John 12:44-50. What verse in this portion of John 12 holds the most meaning for you and why?

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Seeking Jesus

John 12:1-50

Friends of Jesus

12:1-8

- *Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were intentional about spending focused time with Jesus.
- *Martha's service was motivated by _____ and a desire to honor Jesus.
- *Lazarus was a living witness of how the miraculous power of Jesus can restore life.
- *Mary's act of worship was public, spontaneous, lavish, personal and a sweet aroma to Jesus.

Your life becomes a sweet aroma to Jesus when it is a beautiful balance of service, witness and worship.

The Large Crowd

12:9-19

- *Some in the crowd were curious, but not all of them were serious about knowing Jesus.
- *Some in the crowd were filled with _____ that would soon fade after Jesus was gone.
- *The disciples didn't completely understand, but they remained committed to Jesus.

Be guided by the Holy Spirit as you prayerfully study God's word and you will see Jesus glorified in all your circumstances.

Serious Seekers

12:20-36

- *The Jews were seeking more _____, but the Greeks sought more time with Jesus.
- *Followers of Christ should share the light of God's truth with a dark world.

Seek Jesus, not for His miracles, but for a greater understanding of who He is.

Stubborn Unbelievers

12:37-43

- *Even with the many signs Jesus had done before the Jews, they continued in their unbelief.
- *The Jews persistent unbelief took place to fulfill prophecy and led to spiritual blindness.
- *Some feared and praised the opinion of man more than they feared or praised _____.

As a follower of Christ, be more concerned about God's approval than the approval of man.

Jesus Responds

12:44-50

- *To believe in Jesus is to believe in God the Father.
- *Jesus came to bring light to a dark world.
- *Jesus came to save, not to judge.
- *Rejection of Jesus leads to God's judgment.
- *The words of Jesus are the words of God the Father.

JESUS the WORD – John 12:1-50

March 24-25, 2021

JOHN 11:54 Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

1 PETER 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

MARK 16:1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

ZECHARIAH 9:9 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.

PSALM 118:25-26 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

JOHN 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

ISAIAH 53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

ISAIAH 6:10 "Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.