

John 12

John 12.1-11

V1 – Why had Jesus left Jerusalem? Threats to his life because he claimed to be Deity

-Now he is on his way back for the final week and the crucifixion

-**What is the location?** Bethany

-**How is Bethany identified?** It is where Lazarus was raised from the dead

V2 – Notice that Martha was serving, always useful, always trying to be of service

-More of us need to be like Martha

-Lazarus was there also, reclining according to First Century manners

V3 – Apostle John emphasized the great cost involved here

-**The weight?** Roman pound = 12 ozs. = 327.45 grams

-A great amount for perfume even today

-A very expensive perfume for the First Century

-From any standard Bible dictionary: This perfume was from a plant that grows in the Himalayan Mountains and was shipped in sealed bottles (to conserve it)

-Mark's account: the neck of bottle had to be broken

-**After pouring this on the feet of Jesus, what did Mary do?** Wiped His feet with her hair

-**What result?** The fragrance filled the whole house

-**Why did she anoint his feet?** To recognize the greatness of Jesus

-**Did Martha and Lazarus object?** No – they had learned much over the three years of Jesus' ministry

V4 – John identified Judas as the one planning to betray Jesus

V5 – What was the objection? The perfume could have been sold and given to poor people

-300 denarii – about a year's wages in the First Century

-A denarii was payment for a day's work

V6 – What was the real motive behind this remark of Judas? He was stealing money from the treasury of the apostles and Jesus

-Probably Judas was not a thief when he was made an apostle, but he gave in to the temptation to steal

-His love for the poor was really just a cover up for his stealing

-Judas would betray Jesus because of his covetousness

V7 – Whose side did Jesus take? Mary's

-When we have proper love in our hearts, we will occasionally do extravagant things

-In just about every congregation, there will be some members who will do things "beyond the call of duty," just because they love the church

-One example: Preparing flowers for the front of the auditorium each Sunday

V8 – Our good deeds will have long lasting effects

-Probably many good deeds have been inspired by the deeds of Mary

-Point: Helping the poor is not just giving them money; it is inspiring them and others also

V 9 – **Why did the crowds start gathering?** To see Jesus and also to see Lazarus

V 10 – Notice John 12:1, 9, 17 – All mention the raising of Lazarus

-John wants to drive home this point

-**What were the chief priests now planning?** To kill Lazarus

V 11 – Many believed because of Lazarus

John 12.12-19

V 12 – Next day: first day of week

-Great crowds of people had gathered for the Feast of Passover (the third Passover mentioned in the four gospels = 3½ years of public ministry for Jesus)

V 13 – **How did they welcome Jesus into Jerusalem?** They put palm branches on the ground

-Hosanna = "Save, we pray" (*Psalm 118:25*)

-A reference to salvation - **Read Psalm 118:22-29**

-They acknowledge that he is the king of Israel

V 14 – **How did Jesus travel?** On a donkey

V 15 – **Why?** *Zechariah 9:19* – fulfillment of the prophecy (and to show his humility, compared to the Pharisees and Sadducees and Roman government officials)

V 16 – Even disciples did not understand that Zechariah was being fulfilled now

-Later, they saw how it all fit together

-The glorification refers to the resurrection of Christ from the dead

V 17 – **Who testified to his deity?** Those who were there when Lazarus was raised

V 18 – They were impressed with the resurrection of Lazarus

V 19 – The Pharisees were hard on each other: "You're not very effective in stopping him – the whole world is following after him"

John 12.20-26

V 20 – These "Greeks" were proselytes (Ruth, Rahab the harlot, etc.)

-These were converts to Judaism, not native born Jews

-In the First Century, they generally spoke Greek

V 21 – John is the only gospel writer to mention this incident

-**Why did they ask Philip for help and information?** Philip was a Greek name, since Philip of Macedonia was the father of Alexander the Great

-The New Testament book of *Philippians* was named after the city of Philippi, which was named after Philip, the father of Alexander the Great

-Their motives seem to be good; they wanted to know more about Jesus

V 22 – Why did Philip talk to Andrew? “Andrew” is also a Greek name – Philip and Andrew were from the same village

-Maybe Philip was confused, since they were to preach only to Jews (*Matthew 10:5, 15:24*)

V 23 – Possibly addressed to the Greeks and all others listening

-Meaning: Now that non-Jews are getting involved, I know the time for the crucifixion is near

V 24 – Only through his death could he complete his work

V 25 – When we look out for ourselves? A bad result

-When we “lose” our lives helping others? We save ourselves

V 26 – Explain?

John 12.27-33

-Appears to be same meditative thoughts, maybe just to the apostles

V 27 – What does “this hour” refer to? The coming crucifixion

-What brought on these thoughts? Greeks coming to him in v 20 – a sign that the hour was near

-What emotions did Jesus have about his coming death? Horror and terror

-Why would he have such feelings? His human side – *Hebrews 4:15-16* – he can sympathize with us

-What answer did Jesus have? He came into the world for the purpose of being a sacrifice for our sins

V 28 – Prayer of Jesus? That God’s name might be glorified

-Reply of God: It has been glorified and will be glorified

-Past glorification? Possibly the transfiguration, possibly the baptism of Jesus

-Future glorification? Resurrection of Jesus

V 29 – Why did John especially indicate that the sound could be heard by all? To prove deity of Jesus, not just his imagination

V 30 – Purpose of God’s voice? For the sake of the people

-Explain? To cause them to believe

V 31 – “Judgment” = condemnation – Satan is to be condemned

-Remember *Revelation 20* – the binding of Satan began

V 32 – Does “if” indicate uncertainty? No, only “when”

-When was he lifted up? V 33 – in crucifixion

-Is everyone “drawn” by the crucifixion? Yes, but not all respond

-If a person is lost, he can only blame himself

-Would the New Testament have been different if sins had been forgiven without the death of Jesus (no crucifixion)? Possibly, since he draws us through the cross

-People who are hostile to Christ still sympathize with Jesus and his manner of death

V 33 – Johns explains the passage

V 34 – The crowds are confused – they thought that Jesus was the Messiah – now he is speaking of his death

- No specific Old Testament scripture says that the Messiah would not face death
- Notice the wording, “*we have heard*” = Probably the teachings of the Pharisees

V 35 – **Explain?** Jesus would soon leave the earth – he had to make good use of this time

V 36 – **How to become sons of light?** Believe

- Jesus hid himself from the public

John 12.37-43

V 37 – **Does presenting proof to the people result in their becoming Christians?** No - many times there are other reasons for not becoming a Christian

- Remember the account of the rich man and Lazarus, - “If someone goes to them (5 brothers) from the dead, they will repent”
- Answer of Abraham: “*If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead*” Luke 16:31
- “Proof” works only if the heart is open to change

V 38 – **Who had prophesied their unbelief?** Isaiah

- Rhetorical questions – answer: very few will

V 39 – A fulfillment of Isaiah

- The cause of their hardened hearts was the gospel
- Bro. Woods: Sun falls on wax and clay - one is softened and the other is hardened
- Sun “causes” both, but it has two different effects, based on the material which receives the sunlight

V 40 – A quote from *Isaiah 6.10*

- The word of God was the cause of their blindness, because they had rejected the Word of God

V 41 – **Does anyone remember when Isaiah saw the glory of God?**

Read Isaiah 6:1-5 – Isaiah says it was God

- John says it was Jesus
- Interesting – The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus was “a god” and inferior to God the Father

V 42 – **Did v 40 predestine these Jews to reject Jesus?** No, many believed

- Why did they not come forward to help Jesus?** Pressure from the Pharisees; they would be put out of synagogue

V 43 – How tragic

- John can drive the dagger in and twist it
- He leaves them slowly twisting in the wind

John 12.44-50

-A summary of his public ministry

V 44 – To believe in Jesus is to believe in the Father - God the Father and God the Son cannot be separated

V 45 – To “behold” Jesus is to behold the Father

V 46 – Typical of the Fourth Gospel: light and darkness

-Those without Christ are in darkness and are groping around for the answer to life

V 47 – **Explanation?** The purpose of Jesus was to save people, not condemn them

V 48 – Very important – the Day of Judgment will come

-**What will judge us?** The Word (Bible)

-We had better hold onto the Bible at all costs

-The writings of humans mean nothing

V 49-50 – Source of the words of Christ: the Father

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