

John 12:1-42

(Basic Bible in English)

Chapter 12 is very interesting. We'll be discussing the passion of Christ.

1 ¶ Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. This is 6 days before the Passover. Lazarus is alive, back in his home. They're having a supper, and Martha is serving. We'll really notice the different personalities of the people, and God uses everyone's personalities for His glory.

2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. Mary is always interested in learning more about Christ. She'll let the household chores go in order to learn more about Him. This spikenard ointment is a very expensive, very pure ointment. This is a humbling event for Mary. She knows who Christ is, and she can't humble herself enough for Him.

4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Notice this particular Judas is very specifically identified. Judas was a very common name back then.

5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 300 pence was a complete year's wages. She put a whole year's wages on Jesus Christ's feet.

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Judas was a thief.

7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. It was a prophetic event what she did here. The dead were wrapped in 100 lbs of spices to keep the body from decaying in those days.

8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always. Jesus is not saying don't take care of the poor; he is saying that she is anointed His body as prophetic to His dying. We still have the poor and we still try to take care of them, always.

9 Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. They knew throughout all of history that nothing like this had ever happened. Lazarus was dead-dead; laying in the cave for 4 days. Then, and only then, was he brought back to life so that Jesus may show us the glory of God. All this has a purpose, even Jesus' death. He died to save us. Without Him doing that, we all would be doomed to an eternity in hell. Thank You Jesus!!


10 But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;


11 Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus. Here's the evidence of the power of Christ, and the religious leaders want to get rid of the evidence and Jesus because He will take away their power. They were very greedy.

12 ¶ On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Jerusalem was full of people from all over the world for this feast. Jesus came to earth to bring life; religious leaders bring death to their flock.

13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. Waving the palm tree branches is a sign of victory. Hosanna means "save now" or "give victory now". They want Jesus to keep the Romans out of Jerusalem and set up the kingdom for Israel that had been promised by God. This was the crowd's idea. Not that He was going to die on the cross for their souls. They wanted Jesus to do what they wanted Him to do; not what God wanted. Psalm 118 is where this "blessed is the king of Israel".

14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,





15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. Why didn't Jesus come in a big white strong stallion instead of this donkey? This is very important. He came in a lowly servant sitting on a donkey. He'll come on a white stallion when He returns to earth for judgment day.

16 These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him. Even His disciples didn't understand what was happening. They didn't understand at first. There are a great many prophecies in the Old Testament concerning this event, this time in the life of Christ. There were 50 prophecies fulfilled within a 24-hour period here. There is a book called "50 prophecies fulfilled in one day" out there today.

17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

18 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. Jesus Christ's fame had grown large and wide at this time of the Passover, so many came just to see Him.

19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him. The religious leaders have grown very concerned, scared even. The whole world was starting to follow Jesus Christ.

20 ¶ And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: These Greeks had switched over from their old religion and believed on Christ and they were there at the feast too.

21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

22 Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. We don't know if Jesus ever met with these Greeks, but He answered as follows:

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. Anyone who has planted seeds knows that the seeds dies, changes shape, and then brings forth new life, like a tree or a flower. This is a symbol of what He needs to do Himself.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. He that loves his life shall lose it: if you are so self-centered and you forget what God wants you to do and just do what you want to do, you will lose that lifestyle. You won't lose your salvation, just any rewards. Jesus will be asking at the judgment seat, "what have you done for me?", not "what have you done for yourself?". You'll get eternal rewards that will last forever if you do what God wants and not what you want on this earth during your lifetime. You got to give up something to get something. Nothing comes for free. Even God's grace must be voluntarily requested and accepted in your heart. That's the price of salvation – the invitation, acceptance, and belief that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead.


26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. Notice this: serve Jesus, be honored by the Father.

27 ¶ Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Jesus Christ knew what He was facing. He knew what the cross meant and the torture and pain He would endure. He prayed that God the Father would spare Him from this, but He also know it had to be done and this was the only reason He came to the world.

28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. This is the 3rd time this has happened that God spoke from Heaven. 1st was at Jesus' baptism, the 2nd at the transfiguration.

29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Jesus wanted the people to know that this is all for them.



31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. Jesus is talking about Satan here. Satan is the prince of the world. He is still walking around the planet causing trouble. He is not omnipresent. His demons do a lot of his dirty work for him.

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto me. All men and women who are called and saved will come to Jesus.

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man? Again, they only understood part of the scriptures. We need to study the entire bible, Old and New Testament, not just a piece here and there. If you study only bits and pieces, you'll get messages out of context.

35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them. This was His answer to the Greeks: I'm about to die so you better pay attention to what's being done here these next few days. Jesus leaves the crowd after answering the Greeks.

37 ¶ But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

38 That the saying of Esaias (Isaiah) the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias (Isaiah) said again,

40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. Isaiah said the people would reject their messiah when He came. (Isaiah 53). These people had witnessed so many miracles, saw Lazarus raised from the dead, and still they didn't believe.

41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. (Isaiah 6).

42 ¶ Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: These were the secret believers among the religious leaders. They didn't speak out because they'd lose their position in the world and be cast out. A lot of people are like this today.