

JOHN: THE WORD: GRACE AND TRUTH

John 12:12-50

Last week we looked at the coming of the Passover Feast and that Jesus came to Bethany to stay with His friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. We explored Mary's extravagant anointing of Jesus' feet as to prepare Him for burial, and we learned that the Pharisees were laying plans to murder both Jesus and Lazarus.

Jesus comes to Jerusalem

¹² On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and *began* to shout, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel." ¹⁴ Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, ¹⁵ "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT." ¹⁶ These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. ¹⁷ So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify *about Him*. ¹⁸ For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."

Greeks Seek Jesus

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; ²¹ these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and *began to* ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. ²³ And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. **John 12:12-26 NASB**

- A victory march!
 - Jesus rides into the city on a donkey to the shouts of crowds with palm branches declaring, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel." (**v13**)
 - The disciples didn't 'get' all these things at first, but once He was glorified, they remembered and understood much of what had been written, said, and done to Him.

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⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; and the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. **Zechariah 9:9-10 NASB**

- The power of miracles and testimony! Those who had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the grave continued to testify about it, people continued to believe it, and the Pharisees continued to be angered, flustered, and eager to eliminate Jesus. **(v17-19)**

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- Some Greeks approached Phillip (Phillip is a Greek name) and they wanted to see Jesus. **(v21-22)**
- Jesus' reply to Phillip and Andrew..."It is time for the Son of Man to be glorified..." **(v23)**
- The principle of the seed needing to die to being a seed so it can become a seed giving plant. **(v24-26)**
- Jesus is speaking of multiplication in the natural realm and glorification in the spirit realm. **(v24-26)**

²⁷ Now My soul is troubled *and* distressed, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour [of trial and agony]? But it was for this very purpose that I have come to this hour [that I might undergo it]. ²⁸ [Rather, I will say,] Father, glorify (honor and extol) Your [own] name! Then there came a voice out of heaven saying, I have already glorified it, and I will glorify it again. ²⁹ The crowd of bystanders heard the sound and said that it had thundered; others said, an angel has spoken to Him! ³⁰ Jesus answered, this voice has not come for My sake, but for your sake. ³¹ Now the judgment (crisis) of this world is

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coming on [sentence is now being passed on this world]. Now the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world shall be cast out (expelled). ³² And I, if *and* when I am lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw *and* attract all men [Gentiles as well as Jews] to Myself. ³³ He said this to signify in what manner He would die. ³⁴ At this the people answered Him, we have learned from the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; how then can You say, The Son of Man must be lifted up [on the cross]? Who is this Son of Man? ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, You will have the Light only a little while longer. Walk while you have the Light [keep on living by it], so that darkness may not overtake *and* overcome you. He who walks about in the dark does not know where he goes [he is drifting]. ³⁶ While you have the Light, believe in the Light [have faith in it, hold to it, rely on it], that you may become sons of the Light *and* be filled with Light. Jesus said these things, and then He went away and hid Himself from them [was lost to their view]. **John 12:26-27 NASB**

- Jesus says His soul is troubled and distressed. **(v27)**
 - The hour of His agony was very near and very real in His heart and mind.
 - What's coming is awful, but it is also the purpose for which He came.
 - So, we have Jesus' divine conclusion; Father – glorify Your name! **(v28)**
 - God's 'thundering' response..."I have already glorified it, and I will glorify it again! **(v28)**
 - Some of the crowd thought that it had thundered, and some thought an angel had spoken to Jesus, **(v29)** but he states that the 'voice' was for them.
- Jesus answers the crowd. **(v30-33)**
 - He tells them that the 'voice' was for their benefit, not His.
 - He now offers an explanation of the cross. **(v31)**
 - His death on the cross will achieve several things.

The Cross of Jesus (John v 30-32)

- In the cross God is passing judgement on the world for the sin of every person in the human race.
- Amazingly, Jesus comes as God's representative, bringing God's judgement of sin and the representative of guilty people who make the judgement necessary.
- Jesus takes the place of the guilty, taking our judgement for us.
- In the magnificent expression of God's love, Jesus bears the judgement on our behalf.
- Jesus' death will vanquish the 'ruler' of this world. **(John 12:31)**

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- “The holiness of Christ is the one thing damnable to the devil’s power, and that holiness is consummated in the cross, hence the cross is the destruction of the evil one.” **P.T. Forsyth**

And the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. **Revelation 1:18 NASB**

Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” **Revelation 11:15 NASB**

- The death of Jesus will lift Him up or exalt Him. He is lifted up by the cross...this cross becomes a throne...His name is now exalted above every name. **(John 12:32)**

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of JESUS EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Philippians 2:8-11 NASB**

- Jesus says that through the cross, all men will be drawn to Him. **(John 12:32)**
- He said all these things **(John 12:32)** to indicate the type of death by which He would die.
- The crowd responds **(v34)**, “Who is this Son of Man?”
- Jesus responds **(v35-36)** ...He tells them that they can be sons of light by believing in Him. (He has already explained that He was the Light of the World in **John 8:12** and **John 9:5**)
- ...”He who walks about in the dark does not know where he goes...he is drifting.” **John 12:35 AMPC**
- Jesus speaks and takes His leave. **(v36)**