

Return to Jerusalem

John 12:1-50

- I. PREPARED FOR BURIAL (John 12:1-11)
 - A. The Supper at Bethany (John 12:1-2)
 1. Six days before the Passover (John 12:1); this is the beginning of the last week of Christ on earth before His crucifixion. This week takes up a larger portion of John (about one-half the book) than it does in the other gospels.
 2. Bethany: known as the city of resurrected Lazarus (John 12:1)
 3. Supper held there in His honour (John 12:2)
 - a. Martha served (John 12:2) (*Luke 10:38-42*)
 - b. Lazarus sat (John 12:2).
 - c. Mary sacrificed (John 12:3).
 - B. The Work of Mary (John 12:3)
 1. The Bible events in the life of Mary
 - a. She sat at Jesus' feet (*Luke 10:38-42*).
 - b. She waited for the Master's call (*John 11:28-29*).
 - c. She anointed the Saviour's feet (*Matthew 26:6-13*).
 2. The anointing of the feet of Jesus
 - a. She took a pound of ointment of spikenard.
 - (1) An aromatic oil that comes from an Asian plant that grows in the Himalayas
 - (2) Mentioned five (5) times in the Bible (*Song of Solomon 1:12; Song of Solomon 4:13, 14; Mark 14:3; John 12:3*) – *Note: Interestingly five (5) in Scripture is associated with death.*
 - (3) Very costly (*1 Chronicles 21:24*)
 - b. She anointed the feet of Jesus (*John 11:2*).
 - c. She wiped His feet with her hair.
 - d. She filled the house with the odor of the ointment. Application: the gracious act of Mary filled the house with a sweet savor (*Genesis 8:20-21; 2 Corinthians 2:15; Ephesians 5:2*).
 3. The sacrifice of Mary
 - a. Of her possessions (*John 12:3, 5*)
 - b. Of her pride (*John 12:3*)
 - c. Of her reputation (*John 12:5*)
 - C. The Objection of Judas (12:4-6)
 1. His criticism of Mary's sacrifice (*John 12:4-5; 1 Peter 2:12*)

2. His desire for money (John 12:6; Matthew 26:14-16; *Luke 12:34*)
3. His influence over the disciples (Matthew 26:8-9)

D. The Purpose of the Anointing (John 12:7-8)

1. Against the day of burying (John 12:7; Matthew 26:12)
2. The poor can be helped another day (John 12:8).
 - a. We have the poor always (Deuteronomy 15:11).
 - b. Christ is not always here bodily.

E. The Attraction of Lazarus (John 12:9-11)

1. The people came to see Lazarus (John 12:9).
2. The priests plotted to kill Lazarus (John 12:10).
3. Many believed because of Lazarus (John 12:11).

II. PRESENTED TO THE MULTITUDES (John 12:12-36)

A. The Reception of the People (John 12:12-13)

1. The news of the coming of Jesus (John 12:12)
 - a. Crowds came to Jerusalem in preparation for the feast.
 - b. They heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.
2. The triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem (John 12:13)
 - a. They took palm branches.
 - (1) A symbol of refreshment (Exodus 15:27)
 - (2) A symbol of rejoicing (Leviticus 23:40)
 - (3) A symbol of righteousness (Psalm 92:12)
 - (4) Palm trees decorated Solomon's temple (1 Kings 6:29, 32, 35; 1 Kings 7:36).
 - b. They went forth to meet Him.
 - c. They cried, "Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord."
 - (1) Hosanna means "Save now."
 - (2) This greeting taken from Psalm 118:25-26; see also Matthew 21:9
 - d. They laid down garments and branches in His path (Matthew 21:8).
 - e. The people will quickly change their allegiance (John 19:14-15; compare Acts 14:8-11, 18-19).

B. The Transportation of Jesus (John 12:14-15); He rode in upon the colt of an ass.

1. This was the fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9).
2. This was a declaration of His royalty (Judges 5:10; Judges 12:14; 2 Samuel 16:2; 1 Kings 1:33).

- C. The Confusion of the Disciples (John 12:16)
 - 1. They did not understand (Luke 18:31-34).
 - 2. They would remember afterwards .

- D. The Fear of the Pharisees (John 12:17-19)
 - 1. The people sought Jesus because of Lazarus (John 12:17-18).
 - 2. The Pharisees feared His influence (John 12:19; John 11:47-48; Acts 4:13-16).
 - a. They seemed to be helpless in stopping Him.
 - b. The whole world seemed to go after Him (cp. Acts 17:6).

- E. The Seeking of the Gentiles (John 12:20-23)
 - 1. Their worship at the feast (John 12:20; Acts 2:10; Acts 8:27)
 - 2. Their request to see Jesus (John 12:21; Matthew 2:1-2)
 - 3. Their audience with the Saviour (John 12:22-23); with the help of Andrew (John 1:40-42; John 6:8-9)
 - 4. Note: the relationship of Gentiles to Christ
 - a. In the genealogy of Christ (Matthew 1:1-17)
 - (1) Tamar (Matthew 1:3; Genesis 38)
 - (2) Rachab (Matthew 1:5; Joshua 2:1; Joshua 6:25)
 - (3) Ruth (Matthew 1:5; Ruth 1:3-5)
 - (4) Bathsheba (Matthew 1:6)
 - (a) Wife of Urias (2Samuel 11:3)
 - (b) Granddaughter of Ahithophel (2Samuel 23:34)
 - b. In the Gentiles who came to Jesus
 - (1) The wise men from the east (Matthew 2:1-2)
 - (2) The Syrophenician woman (Matthew 15:21-28)
 - (3) The Greeks (John 12:20-21)
 - c. In the teaching of Christ
 - (1) Go not to the Gentiles (Matthew 10:5).
 - (2) The Gentiles are dogs (Matthew 15:26).
 - (3) He is a light to lighten the Gentiles (Luke 2:32).
 - (4) The Gentiles will trust in Him (Matthew 12:18-21).
 - (5) They are the other sheep not of this fold (John 10:16).

- F. The Message of the Saviour (John 12:23-33)
 - 1. Glorified in death (John 12:23-26)
 - a. The death of the seed unto germination (John 12:23-24; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38)
 - b. The death of the Saviour unto resurrection (John 12:23, 32-33)

- c. The death of self unto salvation (John 12:25; Mark 8:34-37; Romans 6:1-6)
 - d. The death of self unto sanctification (John 12:26; Romans 6:11-16; Romans 8:13; 2 Corinthians 4:10; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:12; Colossians 3:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:11)
 - e. The death of the saints unto glorification (John 12:17-19; Psalm 116:15; 1 Corinthians 15:36-38, 42-44, 51-57)
 - 2. The hour is come (John 12:27; cp. John 12:23 with John 7:30; John 8:20).
 - 3. Glorified by the Father (John 12:28-30)
 - a. Past: the three witnesses from the Father (2Peter 1:16-18)
 - (1) At His baptism (Matthew 3:16-17)
 - (2) At His transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-2, 5)
 - (3) Before His crucifixion (John 12:28)
 - b. Future (Ephesians 1:20-23)
 - (1) The fact of glorification (Acts 3:13; 1 Peter 1:21)
 - (2) The act of glorification (Hebrews 2:5-9)
 - (3) The time of glorification (John 12:23; John 13:31)
 - (4) After His glorification (John 7:39; John 12:16)
 - (5) The restoration of glory (John 17:1,5)
 - (6) The taking of His priestly office (Hebrews 5:5)
 - 4. Glorified in conquest (John 12:31-33)
 - a. Victorious over the devil (John 12:31; John 16:11)
 - b. Victorious over death (John 12:32-33; John 14:19; Hebrews 2:14-15)
 - (1) Mode of death (John 19:16-18; Galatians 3:13)
 - (2) Power of death (John 10:17-18; John 19:10-11; Revelation 1:18)
- G. The Light of the World (John 12:34-36)
- 1. The question of the people (John 12:34)
 - a. The Messiah is to live forever (Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 7:14).
 - b. How can the Messiah die?
 - c. Who is the Son of man?
 - 2. The presence of the light (John 12:35-36)
 - a. Walk in the light (John 12:35; Ephesians 5:8).
 - (1) While the light is with you (John 1:6-9; John 3:19-21; John 8:12; John 9:5; John 12:46)
 - (2) Unless darkness come upon you (Jeremiah 13:16-17; Romans 11:7-10; 2 Corinthians 3:14)
 - b. Believe in the light (John 12:36; John 8:12).
 - (1) While you have the light
 - (2) To become the children of light (Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5)