

LESSON 20: JOHN 12

DECEMBER 5, 2018

OVERVIEW

- . Mary's anointing of Jesus – John 12:1-11
- . Messianic entry into Jerusalem – John 12:12-19
- . Message concerning "The Hour" – John 12:20-36
- . Mystery and responsibility of Jewish unbelief – John 12:37-50

MARY'S ANOINTING OF JESUS – JOHN 12:1-11

- . Timing of this event is six days before the Passover
 - . Since the raising of Lazarus, Jesus had been laying low in Ephraim
 - . Now, just six days before Passover, He travels back to Bethany, to the home of Lazarus
- . Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet shows her deep love and devotion to Jesus
 - . Mary, sensing that Jesus' death was near, had been saving this for His burial
 - . Deciding to use it now, was the best way for her to demonstrate to Him her deep gratitude for all He meant to her and her family
 - . Her otherwise, quiet, shy disposition further demonstrates to Christ just what an expression of love and tenderness this was
 - . She may have sensed sadness in Jesus, knowing His time was near
 - . As a further token of humility, she let down her hair, which Jewish women never did in public
 - . Jesus was deeply touched and comforted by this genuine act
 - . At a time when so many were turning against Him this act provided much comfort
- . Judas reveals his true character – John 12:4-6
 - . Judas objects to this act of extravagance, pointing out how many mouths could be fed with the money collected for this expensive fragrance
 - . Jesus knew what was really on Judas' heart, which was a selfish desire to hoard the proceeds from this fragrance, and take some for himself
 - . Jesus knew that Judas was skimming from the coffers that he was put in charge of
 - . Jesus also knew that Judas was thinking primarily of himself here and not of Mary or Jesus
 - . Jesus also knew that Judas would be the one to betray Him
- . Jesus' defense of Mary's actions – John 12:7-8
 - . Jesus knew that this was Mary's best attempt to honor Him and show her love and devotion to Him

- . She was taking the most precious thing she owned and giving it to Him in an attempt to comfort Him
- . Jesus knew that the consequences of this act would have far greater impact than if the money were given to the poor
 - . This comment is meant to reinforce the beauty of Mary's actions more than to make a statement about the poor

MESSIANIC ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM - JOHN 12:12-19

- . This event marks a transition in John's narrative
 - . Up until now Jesus has tried to restrain from allowing the public to honor Him in a spectacular way
 - . He has conducted His public ministry in a way which always points to the Father, giving glory to Him
 - . Now, He knows it's time to be put on display, in order to fulfill prophecy
 - . This is a well thought out moment, in exact accordance with God's plan, not some sudden, spontaneous desire to be honored
 - . In order to fulfill prophecy (Zechariah 9:9), he secures the colt of a Donkey, in advance, to ride on in to the city
 - . The wildly enthusiastic crowds, laying down palm branches was the fulfillment of prophecy in Psalm 118:25-26
 - . Although these people were excited and wanted to honor Jesus, they were still ignorant as to His true mission
 - . To most, He represented the earthly King they desired, to rescue them from their earthly enemies and bring earthly superiority to Israel
 - . Even the disciples, at this moment, failed to understand His true mission
 - . Only after Jesus had risen, ascended and sent the Holy Spirit, would they truly understand his true fulfillment of prophecy

MESSAGE CONCERNING "THE HOUR" - JOHN 12:20-36

- . The extent of Jesus' popularity had reached its zenith, with Greeks traveling a long way, wanting to see Him - John 12:20-22
 - . The way John transitions here to Jesus' declarative statement, using the Greek travelers, demonstrates the fact that Christ came for all humanity, not just the Jews
 - . John didn't see this in real time, only later when he wrote the Gospel
- . The hour of glorification of the Son of Man - John 12:23
 - . Jesus' words were spoken directly to the visiting Greeks
 - . He knew these words of truth would take root in these Greeks

- . He knew how important this moment would be in just a few short years, in helping His disciples carry out the great commission – Matthew 28:18-20
- . This hour of glorification refers to the sequence of events about to occur
- . "The kernel of wheat" statement – John 12:24-26
 - . Christ represents the original, perfect grain of wheat
 - . The only way the kernel from that grain of wheat can drop and multiple is for the grain of wheat to die
 - . Christ is telling His audience the only way for Him to fulfill the mission God sent Him to fulfill, is to die
 - . Only through His death, will there be new, abundant life
 - . In order for someone to be a reflection of Christ and a true representation of this new grain of wheat, born of this fallen seed, they must be willing to die to the old life and be born again from this new seed
 - . Someone who loves their "condition" so much they don't want to lose it, will eventually die with it
 - . Someone who hates and mourns this "condition" will find new life in Christ and keep it forever – Matthew 5:3-4
- . The hour of personal suffering – John 12:27-30
 - . The Lord is revealing His inner, personal distress as He anticipates the overwhelming anguish that will engulf Him at Gethsemane and the Cross
 - . His entire mission has been to fulfill God's plan, which includes the Cross
 - . He knows He can't pray to have God alter that plan
 - . Even in this moment of anguish He prays "Father, glorify your name"
 - . He is asking for His Father's strength
 - . He is surrendering His will to His father's
 - . God's public answer is meant for others to hear, reaffirming His love for and approval of His Son's actions
- . The hour of judgment and the drawing power of the Cross of Christ– John 12:31
 - . The Cross is a judgment for all humanity
 - . To refuse the Cross is to refuse God's plan to offer redemption for our fallen nature
 - . To refuse the Cross is to side in judgment against Him
 - . To embrace the Cross is to embrace the fact that Christ died for our sins so that we can be born again in to a new Spirit that will give us the power to overcome the sin that stills lurks in and around us
 - . To embrace the Cross is to render the Price of this World powerless
 - . Each time evil will try to reel us back in, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us defeat sin
 - . To embrace the Cross is to die to sin and no longer be a slave of sin
 - . Although the Prince of the World still lives for the time being, he no longer has control over someone who has embraced the Cross – his days are numbered

- . Nothing else draws people to Jesus as much as when they see His love at the Cross
 - . The idea that He, the unblemished lamb, was willing to die for our sins and transgressions is very powerful

MYSTERY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF JEWISH UNBELIEF – JOHN 12:34-50

- . Jesus' comments did not fit with Jewish prophecy
 - . The idea of the their savior dying at the hands of the enemy was unthinkable
- . At the same time, it was a real mystery to John, that the majority of the Jewish nation refused to see Him as their Messiah and choose not to embrace Him instead of at least trying to understand what he was teaching
 - . This revolt was led by the members of the Jewish society who were the most educated on scripture and the ones who were supposed to be closer aligned to God's will for their lives
- . Israel had been chosen by God to be the repository of His revelation to man
 - . How can it be that the same nation fails to recognize the Messiah
- . Regardless of the unbelief on the part of the majority, there is always a minority remnant that carries the light forward
 - . The study of scripture reveals to us that this has always been the case, throughout biblical history
- . One of the downfalls of the religious leaders during this time was that they were swayed by the majority
 - . The fear of the majority caused them to think more about their own livelihood
 - . These leaders also loved the praise from their fellow man than the praise from God
 - . Many of these leaders became so concerned about their own well being that they were willing to turn a blind eye to the possibility that the true Messiah was in their midst

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018 – JOHN 13