

“HE DWELT AMONG US”

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LESSON 13

Chapter 12

Initial Mission Accomplished

John’s purpose for writing this gospel was “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name” **John 20:31**. With this purpose in mind, he carefully recorded seven *sign* miracles. To those whose hearts and minds are eager for truth, they provide the evidence that Jesus truly is the Son of God. As we have seen in our studies, Jesus has now validated His ministry and substantiated His claims to deity by performing these miracles.

Jesus’ Seven “Signs”

1. Turning water into wine (**2:1-11**)
2. Healing official’s son in Capernaum (**4:46-54**)
3. Healing an invalid at pool of Bethesda (**5:1-18**)
4. Feeding the 5,000 in Galilee (**6:5-14**)
5. Walking on water, Sea of Galilee (**6:16-21**)
6. Healing a blind man in Jerusalem (**9:1-7**)
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead in Bethany (**11:38-45**)

Final Days, Countdown to the Cross

“The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.” John 12:23

As we begin our study of **chapters 12-21** of the Gospel of John, it is important to realize that these verses record the final days of Jesus’ life and ministry here on earth. Throughout His ministry, we have seen that Jesus knew His time was limited and therefore precious. He told His disciples “I shall be with you a little while longer, and then I go to Him Who sent Me.” **John 7:33** Even though the jealousy and resentment of some of the Jewish leaders had been intense to the extent that they tried to kill Him, “His time had not yet come.” “When they sought to stone Him, going through the midst of them, He passed by.” **John 8:59**

Now Jesus clearly informs His disciples “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.” **John 12:23** Stop and pray right now that your heart, soul and mind will be open to see, hear and learn from our Lord as He prepares to face the “penalty of sin and death” for our sake.

DAY #1

Read **John, chapter 12** all the way through. Go back and carefully read **John 12:1-19**, recording the important facts. Give a title to this portion of scripture.

Title:

DAY #2 Read John 12:1-8 and Mark 14:3-9 *Pray before you start your lesson each day.*

- 1) We read that Jesus returns to Bethany six days before the Passover. Four days later, a dinner is held in His honor at Simon's house. It is most likely that Jesus had healed Simon. If he was still a leper, it would not have been lawful or safe to dine in his house due to the highly contagious nature of leprosy. As we look at some of the people present at the dinner, we can imagine an atmosphere of love and thankfulness. They had learned and received so much from the Lord. Share any insights you might have of the actions and attitudes of the following:
 - A. Simon
 - B. Mary
 - C. Lazarus
- 2) Mary anointed the head (**Mark 14:3**) and the feet (**John 12:3**) of Jesus with the costly, fragrant oil. The value, 300 denarii, was approximately a year's wage for a farm worker. Often wealthy families kept a box of such oil for each family member to be used to prepare the body for burial. Lazarus' box had been used. Mary chooses to use hers for Jesus instead of saving it for herself. Choose one of the main characters, Mary, Jesus, or Judas. Describe this event from their perspective, as if in *their own* words.
- 3) Mary's act of worship is an example to us. It did not matter the cost in pride, self or possessions. She set aside the other "good" uses of the precious oil to pursue the "eternal value." Our life is the most precious commodity we possess. We also have the choice in the way we will "pour it out." Prayerfully ponder and share how the following scriptures encourage an *upward call* to live your life *poured out for Christ*.
 - A. **II Corinthians 2:14-15**
 - B. **Colossians 3:1-2**

C. Romans 12:1-2

This one life will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last.

- 4) Read **John 12:9-11**. Some of the people responded to Jesus by believing. But the chief priests were jealous. The desire to kill and destroy was the result. Jealousy has deadly power. Quite often, the most damage is in the life of the one with envy in their heart. Contrast the destructive with the edifying attitudes and actions in these passages.

Destructive

Edifying

A. Galatians 5:19-26

B. James 3:13-18

Envy shoots at others and wounds herself

DAY #3

- 1) **Luke 19:29-38** describes the same event as **John 12:12-18**. Read both accounts. We commemorate this as Palm Sunday. The crowds came out to honor Jesus as “King of Israel.” Truthfully, many would rather that their king come riding a chariot, wearing a rich crown and leading a fierce army to deliver them from Roman rule. They had hoped He would establish His kingdom on the earth.
- A. What do you think His riding on a young colt signified?
- B. So often, we also long for external victory. As you ponder this contrast, read from the Old Testament prophecy, **Zechariah 9:9-10**. Describe how His lowly entry means more to you *personally* than the conquering of empires.

Read **Luke 19:39-41**

2) The Pharisees would have stifled the praise of the people.

A. What are some things or people in your life that would hinder you from boldly proclaiming His praises? (This is a personal question. Share only if you feel comfortable.)

B. Share the elements of **Psalm 100** that encourage you to praise.

C. *A pause for praise* Praise flows from a thankful heart. Prayerfully list some of the many things you have to thank the Lord for. Spend some time right now welcoming His entrance into your life as King and praising Him for all His goodness in your life.

DAY #4

Read **John 12:20-50**. Record the important who, what, when, where, why and how. Title this second portion of **chapter 12**.

Title:

Day #5 WE WISH TO SEE JESUS

- 1) In **John 12:20-22**, we learn of some Greeks who came to worship. They must have been drawn to the *Living God* of the Jews in contrast to the idols which their own people served. These Greeks sought the next step toward God, a desire to meet Jesus. In this we get another glimpse of the fact that even though Jesus came first to the nation of Israel, He would also include us who are not Jews into “the family of God.” Describe what you learn from the following passages:
 - A. **John 10:16** (review)
 - B. **Ephesians 2:17-19**
 - C. **Acts 10**
- 2) Read **John 12:23-26**. Jesus said “*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified*” **John 12:23**. The cross was just days away. He was saying that the time had come for Him to manifest all the love He had for us by dying in our place. This was *true glory* to Him. In **verses 24-26**, He explained how giving up *all* results in “much fruit.” Let’s look carefully at the very important lessons in this section.
 - A. Describe all that happens after a wheat seed is planted in the earth. Really think about this in order to come up with as many things as you can.
 - B. Jesus was teaching an important concept in **verse 24**. Explain the spiritual applications you learn from what happens to a physical seed that has been planted as it relates to His lesson.
 - C. Share how loving your life can result in the loss of life that Jesus meant in **verse 25**.
 - D. Explain how “much fruit” could be the result in your life as you follow Jesus’ example and seek to live **John 12:24-25** personally. Ponder this before you answer, then give practical applications.
 - E. Carefully read **John 12:26**. Share what this verse means to you.

Quote Jim Elliot, the bold missionary who died on the mission field in his efforts to reach the lost said:
“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

- 3) Write out **John 12:24** on a 3x5 card. Commit this challenging and inspiring verse to memory. Pray that you will be able to share it with someone else this week. *Most of all*, pray that you will be able to *live it* in some specific way this week.
- 4) **John 12:27** gives us insight into the agony of soul Jesus experienced as He anticipated the cross. Read this verse carefully along with verse **28**.

A. Was He asking God to deliver Him? Explain your answer.

B. Share the additional understanding you gain from **Hebrews 12:2**.

DAY #6

FAITHFUL STUDENT: Please write out general lessons you feel we should learn from each of the sections below. This is the interpretation step of the inductive study method as described in lesson one. To understand the meaning of these passages, it is helpful to ask the following questions: What is being taught? What does it mean to us today? What can we learn or what example does it set for us? As you ponder the lessons, ask the Lord to guide you to draw out what *He* is seeking to teach and minister through these passages. You may choose to state either one or two lessons for each section.

Read **John 12:28-33**

1)

2)

Read **John 12:34-41**

1)

2)

Read **John 12:42-50**

1)

2)

Application Share three areas that the Lord has ministered, encouraged, exhorted, or convicted you *personally* through this week's lesson.

1)

2)

3)

***“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also.
If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:26***