



## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 13 *"COME AND SEE"*

In chapter 11, the religious leaders declared Jesus a criminal, or a fugitive. They had put Him on the "wanted" list, and whoever saw Him was commanded to report it (John 11: 57). People were curious if this man Jesus was really the Messiah, the King who would deliver them from the Roman oppression and usher in the age of peace and prosperity. Their questions had to be whispers, or they would also feel the wrath of the Sanhedrin. Everyone was wondering if Jesus would show up in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. He did celebrate it, but in a quiet home of some close friends.

We meet various groups of people in our chapter this week. In his Gospel, John places a beautiful story of worship, as well as Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His last public teaching. I pray that as you study this week, you will not only identify with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but you will take time to honor your King, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

### First Day

1. Read John 12:1-50. How would you describe this chapter? What is the tone of the author? What seems to be his main point? Are there any themes or thoughts that seem to be carried throughout the chapter?
  
2. Observe and list the facts you find in each section, giving each section a title that reflects it's main point.

**A. Section 1: Verses 1-11**

**B. Section 2: Verses 12-22**

**C. Section 3: Verses 23-50**

**3. How does this chapter support John's main theme: that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, fully God and fully man?**

**4. What application do you see for yourself upon first reading? (Which verse or verses speak to your heart?)**

That's it for today. It took a lot of courage for Jesus to go to Bethany, didn't it? It also took a lot of courage to invite Jesus into their home for the Passover supper. What a blessing that they loved Jesus more than they feared public opinion or valued their own life.

**Memory Verse of the Week:** "Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil." John 12:3

### Second Day

**Review your memory verse. Isn't it a beautiful picture of worship?**

1. Read John 12:1-11 again.

Jesus arrives in Bethany six days before Passover, one day before the final entry into Jerusalem. This may be about a month after the raising of Lazarus. Most believe the accounts given in Matthew and Mark are describing the same incident we find here in John. The other Gospels add significant details to our story. The account in Luke, however, is not describing the same story. It is a different Mary and a different Simon, both of which are common names of the day. John's account occurs in Bethany; whereas in Luke, it happens in Galilee.

2. Read Matthew 26:6-12 and Mark 14:3-9. What other details are given?

3. Remember the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42? How do the actions of the sisters still reflect their character and gifts?

4. Why do you think Mary did what she did?

Spikenard was an expensive, scented oil extracted from the root of an exotic plant grown in India. The other accounts tell us that Mary not only anointed His feet, but His head. It was customary in those days to pour oil on the guest's head to honor him. Mary also poured it on Jesus' feet as an act of humility. She let her hair down to wipe His feet and openly expressed her affection and adoration, both of which were against the customs of the day. A woman's hair was considered "her glory" (1 Corinthians 11:15), and she didn't let it flow freely around men. Mary actually "laid her glory" at His feet, as she humbled herself before Him. The oil was kept in an alabaster jar, which couldn't be released without breaking it. The oil was worth about one year's wages.

5. Mary showed her love for Jesus extravagantly. Is it possible to be too extravagant in how you express your love to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How have you shown Jesus you loved Him this week? In what ways have you expressed your devotion and affection for Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Mary's act of worship cost her something. In what ways can our worship also be costly?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Mary's act of worship was a sacrifice. Have you ever given up something very valuable to you because you felt God was asking you to? How is this a form of worship? (Are you willing to sacrifice something valuable to you, for Jesus?)

9. Mark 14:8 tells us that Mary "has done what she could do." What does that mean? How does that speak to your heart? Encourage you? Challenge you?

10. What did Jesus think about Mary's act?

John Phillips said, "Many today believe that money given to the Lord's work would be better spent on social services. They think that a life poured out in trying to reach some remote tribe with the Gospel is a life wasted."

11. What do you think? Is anything ever "wasted" when it's done for the Lord in the spirit of love and adoration? Please explain your answer, while examining your heart on this issue.

See you tomorrow. We'll look at this same section again because it is such a great example for us. (It's also one of my favorite stories!)

### Third Day

**Spend some time on your memory verse. Is your worship fragrant?**

1. Read John 12:1-11 again. How was Martha showing Jesus worship?

Martha was not being scolded, as in Luke 10. I believe her faith had grown, and her attitude was right. She was expressing her love for Jesus through service. Her talents and gifts were in the area of service and she was using them for His glory. Every church needs a few Martha's, don't they?

Worship can take various forms. Martha was a server, and when service comes from a thankful and faithful heart, it's worship. Any type of work can be worship when it's done "as unto the Lord." Lazarus worshipped Jesus by fellowshiping with Him. He was experiencing companionship and fellowship in the presence of Jesus. We, too, can worship Jesus by fellowshiping with Him regularly, throughout the day. We can worship Jesus by sacrificial giving, as seen in Mary's act. Mary didn't care what people thought, or about the expense. She didn't put a price tag on her love for Jesus (although Judas did).

2. What is your "work" during the day? How can you better worship the Lord with your work?
  
3. Are you seeking fellowship with Jesus every day? Do you spend precious moments with Him as often as you can? Do you enjoy being in His presence? What gets in the way?

As Mary broke the alabaster jar of oil, she actually became a "broken vessel" herself. I believe it wasn't only the oil that smelled beautiful; it was also the attitude of her heart that "filled the house with fragrance." Mary seemed to know that Jesus was going to endure suffering and death. Perhaps Martha told her that Jesus said He was the "resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). She probably hid these things in her heart. All three Gospel accounts record the detail that Jesus saw the anointing as a preparation for His burial. Warren Wiersbe said, "In a sense, Mary was showing her devotion to Jesus before it was too late. She was 'giving the roses' while He was yet alive, and not bringing them to the funeral."

4. How did Judas, as well as the other disciples, respond to Mary's act?

5. John lets us know Judas' real motive. What was it?

In his book God's Loving Word, Ray Stedman says this: "Judas is an example of those in the church who regard true worship of the Lord as a waste of time, effort, and money. There are many such people in the church today. They appear to be a part of the church, yet their hearts are far from God's purposes."

Judas was a counterfeit Christian; he was a poser. Why was he still hanging out with Jesus and His disciples? Some believe that because he was the treasurer, he was simply trying to get what he could out of this relationship with this new wonder worker. Maybe he really believed that Jesus would become king, like some expected, and he could score a palace or something when Jesus came into power. Whatever his reasons, he was greedy, disloyal, selfish, and evil.

6. Why do you think the disciples "didn't" recognize Judas as a counterfeit? (Are there still counterfeits in the church today?)

7. Judas ridiculed Mary's act of worship. Our worship may also be questioned or ridiculed at times. How and why is Jesus' response to Judas so encouraging?

Many Jews came as "looky-loos" to see Jesus and Lazarus. Many believed in Jesus because of what they saw in Lazarus' life. His life was a testimony to the grace and power of God.

8. Who else did the chief priests want to put on the "wanted" list? Why?

Lazarus was living a resurrected life. Jesus gave him that new life. We were once dead in our sins and when we accepted Christ, we were given new life too. Our lives should also be a testimony of God's grace and power.

9. How is your life a testimony of God's grace and power? Do people marvel at what Jesus has done in your life?

Spend some time thinking about this section. Meditate and ponder on the great truths we find in these first 11 verses. I pray that our worship will never be the same!

### **Fourth Day**

**Work on your memory verse. Let His Word fill your house!**

1. Let's read John 12:12-22. Describe Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
  
2. All four Gospels record this prophetic event. Read the other accounts and note any added details that are given.

Matthew 21:1-9

Mark 11:1-10

Luke 19:29-38



3. Why did Jesus enter on a colt? Why is it significant?
  
4. This was Jesus' only public demonstration He allowed while He ministered here on earth. Why do you think He allowed it now?
  
5. Did the disciples understand what He was doing? When did they "get it"?

There were three different groups of people there at the time. There were visitors from outside of Judea that were there for the Passover (12, 18). There were local people who had seen Lazarus raised from the dead (17), and there were religious leaders. It is thought that as many as 250,000 people were in Jerusalem at Passover.

The people were waving palm branches, which were plentiful near Jerusalem. This act carried political overtones. "These branches were carried when the Temple was liberated from the Syrians in 164 BC and when the Jerusalem citadel was retaken from enemies in 142 BC. They symbolized kingship, victory, and nationalism. The crowds "went out to meet" Jesus -- this was the normal Greek expression used to describe the joyful reception of Hellenistic sovereigns into a city. They shouted "Hosanna" which means "save now" and is a term of praise to God and of greeting to the kings" (2 Samuel 14:4, 2 Kings 6:26, Psalm 118:25). (Lifechange Series, John)

Jesus fulfilled Zechariah 9:9 by riding the colt. This passage is about the coming of a king in peace. Michael Card, in Parable of Joy, said, "Jesus' mount signified that He was coming to make an end of hostilities -- not just between Jews and Gentiles, but between God and humanity." This act also showed Jesus' idea of messiahship in response to the crowd's nationalism. They would expect a king to ride in on a warhorse, but Jesus rode an unbroken donkey. Although it seems like the crowd's response was a spontaneous demonstration, it was not. Jesus Himself orchestrated it very carefully. He was always in charge. (The term "daughter of Zion" refers to the city of Jerusalem. (vs 15))

6. Why is this scene so important?
7. How did the religious leaders react to this whole scene?
8. Although this is often called the "triumphal entry," what is going on in the heart of Jesus? Read Luke 19:41-44.

Some "Greeks" came to see Jesus. These were *Gentiles* who had forsaken their pagan gods to worship the God of Israel. They were drawn to the idea of the Old Testament God, but didn't care for all the "rules." (They probably weren't converts to Judaism, or they would be called proselytes.) *Gentiles* could go to the Jewish temple to celebrate Jewish holidays, but could only go to the "court of the *Gentiles*," located in the outer courts of the temple. The term "Greeks" does not necessarily mean they were from Greece, but they were Greek-speaking *Gentiles* from Galilee and across the Jordan. They probably went to Philip because he had a Greek name. They didn't seem to be afraid of the religious leaders or the consequences of being associated with Jesus. They wanted to "see Jesus," as in an interview or conversation.

9. Ladies, do you wish to see Jesus? Do you desire Him above all else? And as you share Jesus with others, do you desire that "they see Jesus" rather than you?

God bless you, ladies. May your hearts sing out "Hosanna in the Highest" every day as you rejoice in your relationship with Christ.

### Fifth Day

Write your verse from memory. How does it speak to you?



Jesus refers to satan as the "ruler of this world" and his judgment. He says that "He will be lifted up from the earth," speaking about His crucifixion on a Roman cross. Jesus' death would be a judgment of the world. They didn't understand why He was talking about dying if the Christ was supposed to live forever (Psalm 72:17, 89:36, 110:4; Isaiah 9:7). Jesus tells them that they better take advantage of the light while it is still shining, speaking about Himself. He is the Light of the World, but He will not always be visible.

6. What was the people's response?
7. Still others believed, but didn't confess Him. Why? (vs 42-43)
8. In whose authority did Jesus come? In whose authority does He speak?
9. Jesus gives His last public teaching. Summarize the words of Jesus in verses 44-50. What is Jesus' main emphasis?
10. According to these verses, how important are Jesus' words?
11. If you believe in the Light, what will you become? Have you done that?

**"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.  
Walk as children of light"  
Ephesians 5:8**

