

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John 12:1-19: Jesus Anointed as King



**What do you like best about parades?
Like least?**

Into the Word

- Given the value of the perfume used (12:5), how would you have reacted as you watched Mary anoint Jesus?
- How does Jesus interpret Mary's action? How is his comment in verse 8 especially applicable to Judas?
- What previous stories stand in contrast to the unity and enthusiasm the people are expressing in Jesus' triumphal entry?
- How could you tie in their hope that Jesus will do at THIS Passover what God did at the FIRST Passover?

Into the Heart

- If you had a year's salary or time to use for Jesus Christ, how would you use it? Why?
- What convinced you that Jesus is your King? What is the best thing you've seen about the type of King he is?
- Is your worship life like a hero's victory or a funeral dirge? Why?

What is your greatest takeaway from this passage?

What specific life changes do you need to make?

How will you hold yourself accountable?

THE ANOINTING OF A KING (John 12:1-19)

The end is near for Jesus. His earthly work is almost complete. It's impossible to read this passage, or the stories yet to come, without considering the Passover festival in the City of David. The Passover every spring was considered a Jew's most important obligation. It was the centerpiece festival where Jews gathered to remember their escape from Egypt and the night the death angel "passed over" their home, if it was properly covered in lamb's blood. The Passover feast was a special memorial meal.

In John 12:1-19 Jesus is anointed as King, first by one of his best friends (Mary) and the next day by enthusiastic crowds. Just as the Passover lambs were anointed and herded into Jerusalem on Sunday--now known as Palm Sunday--Jesus will be anointed and herded into town as the Last Lamb.

LOVE'S EXTRAVAGANCE (John 12:1-8)

When Jesus came to Bethany, his close friends--Mary, Martha and Lazarus (who he had recently raised from the dead)--provided him a place to stay and fed him. Martha was serving the supper when Mary entered the room carrying an expensive jar of ointment that cost a year's wages (12:5). Mary anointed Jesus' feet with the expensive nard, wiping his feet with her own hair. It's the ultimate act of humility, allegiance and honor.

In Palestine no respectable woman would appear in public with her hair unbound. On the day a girl was married her hair was bound up, and never again would she be seen in public with her long tresses flowing loose. That was the sign of an immoral woman. But in her worship of Jesus, Mary never gave it a thought.

A PLAN TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE (12:9-11)

For the leaders of the Jews things were getting into an impossible position. The liberal Saducees were particularly threatened. **First, they were threatened politically.** The Saducees were the wealthy aristocratic class and they worked closely with the Roman authorities. The Romans gave a liberal berth, which the Saducees enjoyed, as long as no trouble ensued. But that's the problem. Jesus is trouble. He may be launching a rebellion that politically threatens the Saducees position and power with Rome. **Second, they regarded Jesus' message--particularly of resurrection--as theologically intolerable.** The resurrection of Lazarus was a blast of theological reality in their faces. And so the political and theological solution was to kill Lazarus. He's the evidence that proved Jesus' ministry.

A KING'S WELCOME (John 12:12-19)

Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles were the three compulsory festivals for Jews. At such a time Jerusalem and her surrounding villages were crowded. On one occasion a census was taken of the lambs slain at the Passover Feast. The number was 256,000 lambs (suggesting 1-3 million in attendance!). The Saducees' fears are proving true. The same man who conducted a resurrection from the dead is now in Jerusalem...and it's got the people riled up. Many are calling him the "Messiah." Others the "King of Israel." The word "hosanna" means "save now." More precisely the people were shouting "God save the King!" Jesus was creating a political stir. And these types of reports don't sit well with Herod and Pilate, nor does it give the high priest Caiaphas much comfort. Passover is not about insurrections and resurrections.

We must also remember Jesus was an outlaw and the authorities wanted to kill him. A smart man would've retreated to Galilee or entered Jerusalem secretly. But Jesus didn't do that.. He caused a ruckus. He wanted every eye to see WHO HE WAS and WHAT HE WAS DOING.