

## I. John 11:55-12:50 – The Triumphal Entry

### A. John 11:55-57 – A warrant issued for Jesus’ arrest

1. John 11:55 – *Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover to purify themselves* . Worshippers from around the country gathered in Jerusalem for Passover. On this particular occasion, however, there was more excitement than usual because people were looking for Jesus, but not with pure **motives**.
2. John 11:56 – *So they were seeking for Jesus, and were saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?”* Many speculated that Jesus might not show up at all. They knew that if He did, there would be a **fight**.
3. John 11:57 – *Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might seize Him* . We can see here how the religious leaders’ exercised cult-like **control** over the masses. No one dared challenge them openly. The nation was told to report Jesus for arrest if His whereabouts were discovered.
  - a. In preparation for the first Passover in Egypt, the Israelites searched for an unblemished **lamb** to replace their firstborn sons. Exodus 12:21 said “... *then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, ‘Go and take for yourselves lambs according to your families and slay the Passover lamb’.*”
  - b. Here at Jesus’ final Passover, another Passover lamb was being sought. Starting from John 11:55, we see various people looking for Jesus. Some looked for Him for **malicious** reasons, but others with wholesome motives. Regardless of the reason, the Lamb of God was soon to be found and sacrificed in the place of us all. 1 Corinthians 5:7

### B. John 12:1-10 – In preparation for His death, Mary anointed Jesus

1. John 12:1 – *Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead* . Six days before Passover, Jesus arrived in Bethany. Each day of that week, up until the Last Supper, Jesus would retreat from Jerusalem to **sleep** in Bethany.
2. John 12:2-8 – The following amazing story is quite possibly the **event** that transpired in Simon the Leper’s home, as recorded in Matthew 26. Matthew did not record the name of the woman, only that she would be remembered the world over, wherever the gospel is preached. This is true. Today this is being fulfilled in your hearing as well. Matthew 26:6-13
  - a. John 12:2 – *So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him* . Jesus was back in Bethany. A special dinner had been prepared in His **honor**. Lazarus was also a guest of honor at the meal.
    - 1) Having raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus was now a celebrated **hero**.
    - 2) We see that Martha was again **servicing** at this meal. Mary was there also.
  - b. John 12:3 – *Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume* . With this selfless act and extravagant freewill **offering**, Mary reverently worshipped her Messiah.
    - 1) The perfume she used was pure nard (spikenard) and probably came from as far away as India or China, since it grows primarily in the Himalayas. It is an essential **oil** that was used in sacred ceremonies, medications, and as an embalming ointment.
    - 2) The lovely, expensive aroma of this oil filled the room. One specific person, a trusted disciple, singled it out and was **infuriated**.
  - c. John 12:4-5 – *But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?”* On the surface, this statement sounds noble, but don’t be deceived. The only regret Judas had was a lost opportunity to confiscate a chunk of **money**.
  - d. John 12:6 – *Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.* This verse gives us a window into Judas’ hypocrisy. He was obviously trusted by the disciples, since they put their money in his care. Yet, he was a **thief**.
  - e. John 12:7-8 – *Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. “For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.”* Jesus pointed out that opportunities to help the **poor** would always be available, but the chance to bless the Savior would soon be history. Through this Jesus foretold His death.

# The Gospel of John

3. John 12:9 – *The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead.* The people came not only to see Jesus but also to see Lazarus. Having been brought back to life after being dead for **four** days gave Lazarus an amazing opportunity to testify.
4. John 12:10 – *But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also...* In order to suppress Lazarus' astonishing testimony, the religious leaders conspired to **kill** him also. If he was alive, he stood as a living monument and tribute to Jesus' amazing power and authority. In fact, His witness was already reaching the lost.
5. John 12:11 – *... because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus .* Lazarus' testimony led many to walk away from the Jewish religious establishment and to faith in Christ alone for salvation. This enraged the unbelieving leaders of Israel and heightened their desire to **eliminate** both the Lord Jesus and innocent Lazarus.

## C. John 12:12-19 – The Jewish nation welcomes Jesus as their king

1. John 12:12 – *On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem ...* Jerusalem was brimming with people who had come for Passover. Many Jews believed Jesus was the Messiah who had come to **liberate** them from Roman oppression. They were eager for Jesus to make a bold move in that direction.
2. John 12:13 – *The crowds... took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him, and began to shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the **King** of Israel."* The crowd welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their Messiah. Psalm 118:25-26
  - a. The people of Israel wanted a messiah who could solve their political and social woes. They wanted a **conquering** monarch who would deliver them from the cruelty of the Romans.
  - b. But Jesus did not come to meet their worldly expectations. He came to seek and save the lost and to lay down His life as a ransom for all. This seemed weak and pathetic to the fickle masses, but in reality, it was an unheard-of act of selfless **love**. Isaiah 52:13-12
3. John 12:14-15 – *Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."* Jesus fulfilled every **prophecy** concerning Messiah's First Advent. Riding on a colt, He entered Jerusalem as a king bringing peace, exactly as predicted by scripture. Zechariah 9:9
4. John 12:16 – *These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him.* After Jesus' resurrection and with the coming of the Holy Spirit, many things became **clearer** in the minds of the disciples. John 14:26, 16:13
5. John 12:17 – *So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him.* News of Lazarus' resurrection continued to **spread** to more and more people.
6. John 12:18 – *For this reason also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign .* Bringing a dead person back to life was no ordinary feat. **Everyone** wanted to catch a glimpse of the man who had the astonishing power to bring a decomposing corpse back to life.
7. John 12:19 – *So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him."* The throngs of people following Jesus **unnerved** the angry religious leaders. His popularity made their plans to openly seize Him impossible. Mark 14:1-2