

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
The End of Jesus' Public Ministry
John 12:1-50 (page 750)

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Jesus is worthy of our lavish affection (John 12:1-11)

- Mary loved Jesus and treasured Him more than things (v 3, 7-8)
- Judas loved money and valued Jesus less than things (v 4-6, 8; v 4-6, 8; 1 Tim 6:7-10)

Jesus is the promised King:

- of Israel (John 12:12-19; Psalm 118; Zech 9:9)
- of the whole world (John 12:20-26)

Jesus' chief desire is the glory of God
(John 12:27-36; 11:4, 40)

- God is glorified in the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ (v 23-36)

Jesus confronts Israel's persistent unbelief
(John 12:37-50; 8:56; Isaiah 6:1-10; 53:1-12)

Making it Stick...

1. Lavish affection and worship of King Jesus is never wasted -- it always spills over to others (12:1-11)
2. In dying for our salvation, Jesus calls us to imitate His example (12:24-26)
3. As God's people, His children, we are to live for the glory of God (12:27-36)

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 12:1-50 (Week Twenty-three)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

In John chapter 12, Jesus begins His last week on earth. There was great danger and He knows that pain, rejection and death await Him, yet He can face it all because He has accepted, and is committed, to God's plan because His concern is not for Himself, but for God's glory. That is a powerful message in this chapter and yet it is emphasized and reflected in our Lord's ministry throughout John's Gospel. John moves us through several scenes, days and situations in chapter 12. They deal with a variety of people and issues that are central to faith in Jesus Christ. The chapter concludes with the rejection of Jesus by the nation of Israel and from this time on, He retreats from public ministry to focus on instructing His disciples for His coming death and departure.

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

If you had a year's worth of salary or a year of time to honor Jesus how would you do it? Is it an issue of percentages or does it go beyond that? Explain.

Phillip Yancey has said, "*Our money runs downhill our values*". In other words, what we freely give financially usually sheds light on what we are devoted to pursue. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Reflect on the connection between "*glory*" and becoming a "*kernel of wheat that falls to the ground and dies*" as it applies to Jesus' life. How does the Christian understanding of "*glory*" differ from the world's definition? In what ways have you embraced the life of becoming a kernel that falls to the ground and dies?

What does Jesus mean when He says "*whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life*"? Which part of your life would change most radically if you honestly "*hated your life in this world*"? What parts have changed or begun to change since you believed on Christ?

What was Jesus' priority in vs 27-28? How should that impact our priorities as His followers? Explain.

How do the enemies of Christianity attempt to remove the evidence of Christ's work today so that they can persist in their unbelief. Give examples.

Taking it to the streets....

We are told (vs 42-43) that many of the Jewish leaders believed in Christ but remained silent. Why? Would you say that silence in this case is a sin? Why or why not? What fears prevent you from making your faith public?

If you, like Jesus, knew that you only one week to live, how would you spend your time? What is really important to you? What can we learn from Jesus about this? This week, this day, could be your last. How are you investing your time?