

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 27TH-28TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

### FORESHADOWING (JOHN 12:1-11) SETTING THE STAGE

Six days before the largest Jewish festival, Jesus comes back to the place where He resurrected Lazarus to spend time with him and his sisters.

- As Martha was getting Jesus and the 12 some food and Lazarus was "reclining," Mary came in and poured extremely expensive perfume/oil on Jesus' feet.

### THIS WAS A SACRIFICE AND INVESTMENT

The perfume Mary used was "pure and expensive" and would've been worth the equivalent to almost a year's wage.

- Using this perfume on Jesus' feet showed Mary's **willingness to give her all/best to Jesus**. The act of using her hair on His feet showed her **humility and vulnerability**.

### A FORESHADOWING OF THE CRUCIFIXION

Though Mary didn't understand the magnitude of her actions, she was foreshadowing when Jesus would wash His disciples' feet at the Last Supper and His death, burial, and resurrection.

- **If we'll place this kind of value in Jesus, He will do a work in and through us that will have greater impact than we may know.**

### WITHOUT JESUS, IT IS INCOMPLETE

Judas, the treasurer "about to betray [Jesus]," was upset because many poor people could've been fed by selling the perfume.

- **Taking care of the needy is part of the Christian walk, but it is secondary to honoring Jesus and teaching the gospel because eternity is more important.**

### IT WILL COST THE FOLLOWERS TOO

The crowd found out Jesus and Lazarus were in town, and word got back to the Pharisees, who not only wanted to kill Jesus, but Lazarus as well because he was leading people to Christ.

- **Christians must understand that an allegiance to Jesus will garner hate from the world** (Matthew 10:22; John 15:18; Matthew 24:9).

### MISUNDERSTOOD (JOHN 12:12-19)

#### WHAT DO WE WANT SAVING FROM?

When people heard that Jesus was making a public appearance in Jerusalem, "large crowds" laid out palm branches and shouted Jesus "the King of Israel" and "hosanna" (save us now).

- This seems great, except in a matter of days, **the people turned on Jesus because He wasn't the kind Savior they expected.**

### NATION AND SELF OVER TRUE SALVATION

Passover drew almost three million people to Jerusalem. This festival celebrated liberation from Egypt, but now the people longed for God to deal with Rome.

- **Jesus didn't come to save us from the corruption of government but from the corruption of sin. We must remember this!!!**

### FULFILLING PROPHECY

Everything about Jesus' life fulfilled OT prophecy. Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem fulfilled Zechariah 9:9. The scope of this triumphant scene was too big for the disciples to understand until after Jesus was resurrected.

- **Spiritual formation takes time but should lead to solid commitment.**

### "LOOK, THE WORLD HAS GONE AFTER HIM!"

Though many of the witnesses to Lazarus' resurrection "testified," we will see that **witnessing the miraculous doesn't always produce personal faith.**

- We also see in the Pharisees that an **unwillingness to relent power to a higher authority breeds hatred and violence.**

### LIMITED TIME (JOHN 12:20-36)

#### PHILIP, ANDREW, AND THE "GREEKS"

The "Greeks" in v20 may not have been Grecians, but God-fearing Gentiles. They probably approached Philip and Andrew because they were the only disciples with Greek names.

- Here we start to see God's plan unfold to reach all kinds of people around the globe through the disciples.

### "THE HOUR HAS COME"

"The hour" is the time when Jesus must be crucified for the sins of humanity, and Jesus gives a simple parable about a **seed dying**.

- The Greeks wanted to speak to Jesus, but **the disciples were to become the couriers of the gospel. Sharing the gospel even at the risk of death is the Christian call.**

### LOSING OUR LIVES (V25-26)

Jesus is straightforward about His desire to have our full devotion. **If we choose to live for our desires (self), we will forfeit eternal life. But if we choose to "hate [our] life in this world," we inherit eternity with God.**

- "Hating" this world is **despising the evil in society and choosing to live differently.**

### THE VOICE OF GOD (V27-29)

Jesus was both fully God and fully man, and we see some of the emotional turmoil Jesus had to face as the cross approached. We also see another example of God honoring the willingness to follow His will in difficult times.

- **The irony is if we live to glorify God, this life is enriched and our eternity is in glory.**

### THE SON LIFTED UP

Jesus told the crowd that judgment was coming and the only means of salvation was through Him and His work on the cross.

- **"I will draw all people" isn't implying universalism, but that Jesus opens up the door via the cross to anyone who wants to have a relationship with God.**

### USING OUR TIME TO "WALK IN THE LIGHT"

Jesus resurrected and poured out His Spirit on His followers, but He assures the crowd that if they can't follow Him when it is easy, it will be difficult when He is not physically present.

- **We not only have limited time, but the world is growing darker and more confusing. Are we "walking in the light"?**

### GOD'S WORD (JOHN 12:37-50)

#### "...THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IN HIM."

Though many did believe, many did not. This unbelief, even in the face of miraculous signs, fulfilled prophecy in Isaiah and looked similar to God dealing with Pharaoh in Exodus.

- V40 isn't God choosing to damn certain people, but His **giving people over to what they choose to live out** (Romans 1:28).

### "THEY LOVED HUMAN PRAISE MORE..."

John writes, "many did believe...even among the rulers," though some were closet Christians because they feared the Pharisees.

- Christians are to be reputable, but **we are not to long for, and eventually compromise for, the affirmation of people over the affirmation of God! This is our Achilles' heel!**

### A CONCISE RESUME OF SORTS

Jesus "cried out" that He was **exclusively the path to God because He is, in fact, God**. He also said that He is **the light that enables us to expose and escape darkness in this life and eternal judgment.**

- Though offensive to many, **Jesus is the only pathway to hope and salvation.**

### JUDGED BY THE WORD OF GOD

**"The word [Jesus has] spoken" will be the standard all people will be held accountable to.** If we hear and keep Jesus' words, we will not be judged because we're declared "innocent."

- **Jesus is God and the Bible is God's Word. This means it is all Jesus' words and we're to follow it.**

### OUR WILLINGNESS TO LAY IT ALL DOWN

- Following Jesus is both a sacrifice and an investment. It is not easy, and it will cost us time, energy, finances, and even our identity, but it will also change us for the better and secure our eternity.
- The question is, **are we able to see the big picture and trust Jesus with everything?**
- Do we prioritize nation, color, gender, social status, etc. over our allegiance to Jesus and His principles? If so, **it is idolatry, and it will separate us from God.**
- **Do we fear the opinions of others more than the opinion of God?** Are we addicted to affirmation and acceptance?

### LIVING LIFE ON PURPOSE

- We only have a limited amount of time, and as that passes, it will become more difficult to live for Christ. **Are we intentionally building that relationship (pray, read, obey)?**
- Are we willing to "lose our life in order to find it" (Matthew 16:25)? **Are we willing to give up our lives for Christ AND for others?**

### NO ONE HAS TO REMAIN IN DARKNESS

- **All of us will be held to the standard of God's Word.** If we choose to reject Jesus and His Word, we are choosing to live in darkness now and judgment for eternity.
- **We must not slide into willing ignorance or manipulation of the Bible. This will have dire consequences.**

### WHAT DICTATES HOW WE LIVE?

- By whose standard are we living, ours or God's? **If we were to hold our actions and thoughts up against the Word of God, how would they hold up?**