

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 28TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

ANOINTED (JOHN 12:1-8)

BETHANY

Jesus returns to Bethany on His way to Jerusalem for the Passover. It's a dangerous place to be, but He knows His time is near.

- Every meal is closer to His last. As He dines with His disciples, Mary's actions and the following conversations will reveal more than those with Him would understand.

CHARACTER

As Mary anoints Jesus, we see her pure love for the Messiah and a humbleness missing among the disciples. Her sacrifice was visible, it affected the room, and it stayed with her.

- **When we truly put Christ first in our lives, people will see our commitment, and many will respond. Some will affirm, and some will accuse.**

LEAVE HER ALONE

Judas was quick to point out the apparent waste (as did some other disciples; Matthew 26:8). It was Judas' motive that set him apart.

- **Jesus knew that Mary had done something even beyond her understanding. Surrendering to God's plan will mean more to our future than we may ever know in this life.**

RETURNS (JOHN 12:9-19)

HE WAS THE REASON

Crowds were following Jesus, but we find that crowds had been looking for Lazarus too. Many had heard of his resurrection and had to see and hear for themselves.

- **God will use those who have come through great trials as a testimony of His authenticity. People saw Lazarus, and they see us too.**

DID NOT UNDERSTAND

The crowds that gathered were looking for the Messiah that would become a conquering king. Jesus wasn't what they were looking for. The disciples were still following Jesus but didn't know what they were doing or why.

- **Are our expectations and actions bringing glory to God? We too can look back and remember how God has worked.**

COST (JOHN 12:20-36)

THE HOUR HAS COME

Jesus knew that the crowd's "save us" would become "save yourself," their "hail him" would become "nail him," and their "crown him" would become "crucify him."

- **Jesus wasn't triggered by false praise or insults. He knew that He would give His life for these people. He knows what we have said and done too!**

"FATHER, I GLORIFY YOUR NAME."

Ultimately, everything that Jesus had done, and was about to do, glorified God.

- **Jesus set the standard for glorifying God in every single motive, thought, and action of every single minute, hour, and day. The life and death of Jesus show that God is worthy of our affection and praise. What does our life show?**

WALKING

The crowd still has questions, especially after hearing a voice from heaven. Jesus responds by telling them to "walk in the light."

- **He spoke to them about His physical presence. Today, we have His eternal presence through the Holy Spirit and can walk in His light. The scariest part of walking in darkness is not knowing where you are going.**

CHOICES (JOHN 12:37-50)

UNBELIEF

John has shared that Jesus performed great signs and even fulfilled prophecy, but unbelief was still rampant. How could this be?

- **They could not believe because they would not believe. Because they rejected Jesus, they would not believe God (v.39), see God (v.40), or listen to God (v.49).**

BELIEF

John writes this Gospel to help us believe. Understanding unbelief helps us respond to Jesus' pleading to "believe in the light" (v.36).

- **It is God's desire that we believe in Him. He sent His Son to restore our relationship with Him. He documented His words so we could know Him. Why is there still unbelief?**

EXPOSED

- Our words and actions reveal what we believe about Jesus.
- **We can be committed to the cause and still miss the mission.**
- **When we give and serve with humble motives, it glorifies God and leaves an undeniable fragrance on us and everyone exposed.**

MOTIVATION

- There are times when we're not sure why we're doing something or even what to do.
- **Remembering God's faithfulness and moving in obedience is the way forward.**
- **Walking in the light means glorifying God in motive, thought, and action. We don't do this alone; the same Holy Spirit that walked with Jesus to the cross walks with us.**

BELIEVE

- We shouldn't be afraid of unbelief because God is bigger than unbelief.
- **We must be willing to believe, surrender, and follow Christ in faith.**
- **Will we trust Him? Pray to Him? Share the gospel? We can't expect to see or hear Him until we're willing to walk IN Him.**