

“The Gospel of John: The Messiah Arrives”

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Scripture

John 12:1-19

“Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So, they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. **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.**

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?” 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. 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.” 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. But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, **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.”**

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.”** 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.

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. For this reason, also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign. So, the Pharisees said to one another, **“You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.”**

Last Week

Finished up John 11 -> the Jewish leaders put out an APB on Jesus

Seize Him on sight!

Jesus retreats to Ephraim, some 12 miles away from Jerusalem and pours into the disciples

This Week

Jesus is prepared for His burial and enjoys the Messianic praise from the people

Mary's Dedication to Jesus

John 12:1-3

"Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So, they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. **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.**"

"Very costly" -> we see the wealth that Mary, Martha, and Lazarus had

Nard was extracted from a plant in India and shipped up to Israel

Jesus has His feet anointed by Mary -> **we see her devotion to the Lord**

Using some of the nard here but saving the rest for His burial a week later

Judas's Betrayal of Jesus's Provision

John 12:4-6

"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?" 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."

Three-hundred denarii is a year of wages -> Would you spend a year's wages for the Lord?

We also see Judas's true colors begin to show

Matthew 26:8 says that "the disciples were indignant when they saw this"

Mark 14:4 says that they were "indignantly remarking to one another"

But we see that Judas was the ringleader of the reaction

Apparently, Judas was the group's treasurer -> stealing from the Lord's ministry, scary proposition

He was a thief -> **no surprise that Satan entered him while they were in the upper room later on**

John records that Judas was surely intending to betray Jesus

Shows that a disciple, with Jesus for 3 years, is not there for the Lord but for the benefits of being with Him

This is one of the reasons we continue to preach that remaining with Him is the key to show true discipleship

Our faith is measured not only in initial statements of belief but by continued devotion to Jesus -> we see the contrast between Mary and Judas here -> true devotion vs. hypocritical devotion

Jesus Prioritized Over the Poor

John 12:7-11

"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."

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. But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus."

This is not a statement that we should not help the poor

Devotion to Jesus should take priority over the poor

Mark 14:7 -> "For you always have the poor with you and whenever you wish you can do good to them"

The Gospel isn't the "social gospel" whereby service to the less fortunate is the focus

Our service is to be to Jesus and He calls us to serve others in His name -> not OUR name

Having heard the story, the crowd came from Jerusalem to see Lazarus with their own eyes

The chief priests, however, had added Lazarus to the APB list

The last beatitude in **Matthew 5:11** -> "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."

When you're aligned with Jesus, you are an enemy of the world -> Jesus says that this is a blessing!

The Messiah Arrives

Those in early New Testament times longed for the arrival of the Messiah

Palm branches waved and spread on the road – for royalty!

Matthew 21:1-11

"When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then **Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me.** "If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'" **The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats.** Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "**Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!**" When He had entered Jerusalem, **all the city was stirred,** saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds were saying, "**This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.**"

The Messiah Prophesied

Many Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messianic King:

2 Samuel 7:12-13

"I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and **I will establish his kingdom**. He shall build a house for my name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever**"

Isaiah 9:6-7

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom**, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore"

Isaiah 11:1-5

"Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. **The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But **with righteousness He will judge the poor and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth**; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also, righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist."

All Israel waited for the Messiah to announce His presence

The Hosanna

John 12:12-15

"On the next day the large crowd who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, **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." 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."

The root word for Hosanna and the root word for the name Jesus both mean "save."

Hosanna is compound word of "deliverance" and "prayer"

The jubilant crowd that greets Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem is pleading with Him to save them

Simultaneously joyously greeting the one they believe can and will save them

It is a King's welcome – a Messiah's welcome!

"BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD" from Psalm 118, as we began with today

The end of the Great Hallel – Psalms 113 through 118 -> read or sung by the Jews on the way to festivals

We sing "Hosanna" -> "**He IS the God who saves us**" -> "**worthy of all our praises**"

Jesus purposely called His disciples to go find a donkey for Him to ride in on – **prophesied in Zechariah 9**

Do you think Jesus knew about the prophecy from Zechariah 9?

Zechariah 9:8-9

“But I will camp around My house because of an army, Because of him who passes by and returns; And no oppressor will pass over them anymore, for now I have seen with My eyes. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! **Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**”

The Messiah King is coming!

He is endowed with Salvation!

He is Humble!

He is Mounted on a Donkey!

The Apostle John comments on this event from a historical point of view:

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.”

We see a lot of this from the disciples -> not understanding the significance of the events until much later

We see the same in John 13 when Jesus washes the feet of the disciples:

John 13:7 (Peter questioning the Lord washing his feet)

“Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, **but you will understand hereafter.**”

When would they understand the significance of these events?

Why didn't the disciples “get it”?

Are there a lot of people you know who don't get it now?

We need to have patience with those without the Holy Spirit -> **the disciples didn't “get it” without Him**

The People

John 12:17-18

“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.** For this reason, also the people went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign.”

The group who witnessed the raising of Lazarus kept telling the story of the amazing resurrection

Other people believed the word of their testimony

The result is a massive crowd of celebratory people overjoyed that the long-awaited Messiah was here

But not everyone was happy:

The Final Straw

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 Jews: the Pharisees and the Priests had been trying to trap Jesus, hinder Jesus, chase Jesus for years!

Here it is, Year 3 of the Jesus movement and they are at their wits end

“What can we DO to stop this guy?”

We’ve been stirring up anti-Jesus sentiment all over the place, but He continues to “beat us”

The Pharisees are thinking, “We’ve lost the battle”

They did lose the battle

It’s nice to be on the winning side of the battle, isn’t it?

We’re on the winning side of the battle because God has been faithful to us

Prayer

Benediction