

## John 12

- 1, 2** A celebration at Bethany. Perhaps for restoration of Lazarus. Martha serving.
- 3** Mary's devotion to Jesus. Anointed with expensive perfume.
- 4, 5** Judas' protest against waste.
- 6** Ulterior motive – a thief. Money on his mind.
- 7, 8** Judas reproved. Mary could foresee the inevitable death of the Saviour. There will always be poor people needing help. Spiritual devotion comes before social service.
- 9-11** The people's interest in Lazarus and in the Lord Jesus provoked the anger of the chief priests. The plot thickens! The repeated references to Lazarus show the certainty of his resurrection and its great significance.
- 12, 13** Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The people welcome Him, recognising Him as their Messiah fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies.
- 14,15** Our Lord presents Himself not as a warrior, but as The Prince of Peace. Meek and gentle, not the kind of militant Deliverer they anticipated.
- 16** The disciples would later understand the significance.
- 17, 18** The resurrection of Lazarus roused the people's support.
- 19** The Jewish leaders are the more determined to do something. Jesus is forcing the issue with the Jewish leaders. Jesus is forcing the Jewish leaders to keep to His time table with respect to His death. Some who shouted Hosanna later shouted "crucify Him".
- 20** Greeks convert to the Jewish faith.
- 21, 22** They approach Philip, who tells Andrew, they tell Jesus. There was a problem; the gospel was for the Jews first, if Jesus received Gentiles the wrath of His enemies would increase.
- 23, 24** The Lord looks beyond the immediate future to the harvest to be gathered after He is glorified beyond death and resurrection. The principle is seen in the natural harvest. Fruit comes through death. Absolute necessity of our Lord's death. Apart from the cross He would have remained alone, dying He bears much fruit. He brings home many sons to glory.
- 25** The principle is also true of disciples/believers. The way to life is through death to self. The one who so loves his life that he is unwilling to suffer personal loss and hardship for Christ will actually lose what he sought to protect and preserve, his own life! Only those who by faith lay their lives and future on the line for Christ obtain eternal life.
- 26** Christ's servants serve and follow Him and receive the Father's honour.

- 27** Speaking about His approaching death His soul is filled with anguish. What can He pray? Father save me? No, He had come for this very purpose. Gethsemane like prayer.
- 28** Father glorify your Name – Your will be done! A direct answer. The Father had been glorified in the life of His Son, now He would be glorified in the death of His Son.
- 29** The people variously interpret the voice from heaven.
- 30** It was for their benefit to be assured that the Father and Son were in union and agreement.
- 31** Our lord speaks of His victory as if already accomplished. It is that certain! Judgment on the world of unbelievers and rejectors. Judgment on The prince, the devil cast out. Condemned, though the final sentence would be carried out on the last day.
- 32** He would lose his power to deceive the Gentile nations and the result would be that men from all nations would come to Him.
- 33** Lifted up means The Cross.
- 34** There seemed to be a contradiction. However could The Messiah die and yet remain forever? Therefore they reasoned “You cannot be The Messiah but whoever are you?”
- 35** He challenges them to trust Him nevertheless. The Light was with them, stay with it even though you don’t understand everything. Otherwise the alternative is darkness and complete uncertainty.
- 36** Trust the light you have until you become Sons of light – that is, with complete understanding. Jesus hides from the crowd.
- 37** By and large Israel’s response to the Lord Jesus was one of unbelief in spite of the miracles He performed.
- 38** Isaiah’s prophecy fulfilled.
- 39, 40** Through their own fault they failed to accept Christ by faith. Those who willfully harden their hearts will be hardened so that it becomes impossible for them to believe. Nevertheless this is all in God’s sovereign plan. Israel’s rejection of the Christ did not frustrate the plan of God but formed part of His plan to save sinners. The guilt remains on those who rejected Him.
- 41** Isaiah the prophet foresaw the glory of Christ. Isaiah 6.
- 42.43** Yet many, even of the leaders, did believe, but with an inadequate faith. They were afraid to publicly confess their faith in Him lest they be expelled from the synagogue and suffer the disapproval of their peers. We finally must choose either to please men or God!
- 44.45** Faith in Christ also means faith in God. They are Father and Son, of one Divine nature.

**46** Again the importance of embracing the light, the understanding of the gospel you have and moving forward.

**47** The Saviour did not come to judge men but to save them.

**48** Those who reject His gracious words will be condemned by them on judgment day.

**49, 50** The Saviour faithfully relayed The Father's command. Obedience to that gospel word leads to eternal life.