



LIFE GROUP LESSON 10 – John 12

★ *Indicates key questions to use if you are meeting every other week. Full text of John 12 is at the end of this lesson.*

This week is the transition week; chapter 12 of John transitions us from the Book of Signs and the end of Jesus' public ministry to the Book of Glory and Jesus' private ministry that we will study in January. It is an important chapter, because it establishes without a doubt what we've been observing all along – that Jesus truly is the Son of God, and even more, He is the King!

MARY ANOINTS JESUS WITH OIL

Read John 12:1-11

★ **Question: What do you find striking about Mary's act of anointing Jesus?**

Anointing in the Old Testament was a sign of special selection by God and kingship. As Rolisa pointed out in the message, The Talmud (a book of Jewish rabbinical teachings) explains that whereas all High Priests were anointed, a king was only anointed if he began a new dynasty or if there was some controversy surrounding his appointment.

★ **Question: What was different, new, or controversial about the kingship of Jesus compared to any other king before Him?**

JESUS RIDES INTO JERUSALEM

Read John 12:12-19

Question: Why do you think the people reacted to Jesus in the way they did as He rode into Jerusalem?

Read Zechariah 9:9-10

★ **Question: What are the parallels between the John passage and the Zechariah passage? Or, another way to ask this question is: what characteristics of the king Zechariah is describing are present in Jesus?**

JESUS EXPLAINS DISCIPLESHIP TO THE GREEKS

Read John 12:20-26

Jesus makes these statements almost as a challenge to those who would follow him. He makes very clear that not only is He willing to die for the world, but that each of us also should be willing to lay down our lives if we are to be a follower of Jesus.

★ **Question: What challenges you most about verses 24-26? What does it mean to you?**

Question: Remember that John's goal in his gospel is to lead us to believe in and follow Jesus. How does all that we've learned in the Book of Signs so far help you to receive this challenging teaching from Jesus?

TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE

Read John 12:37-46

★ **Question: Why do some end up believing in Jesus and others don't? Share with the group a little about your faith journey and what has made it hard or easy for you to believe in Jesus.**

FOR ADDITIONAL APPLICATION

★ **Question: How does it help you in your day to day life to think of Jesus as the King of all?**

Question: How might you submit yourself more to Jesus as King over your life?

FOR PRAYER

As you go into prayer for one another today:

- Spend a few moments simply offering praises to Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Lift Him up and worship Him, as He deserves all our praise.
- Pray for one another that Jesus would be fully King of our lives.

John 12

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶ At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

¹⁷ Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it

produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

³⁴ The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

³⁵ Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. ³⁶ Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

Belief and Unbelief Among the Jews

³⁷ Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

“Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them.”

⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

⁴⁷ “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.

⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

-- *The New International Version, (2011). Zondervan.*