

The Gospel of John

Lesson 12: *Palm Sunday* John 12 (4-7 Apr 27AD)

John 12:1 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.

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!"

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.

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 Alabaster Box Anointing

John 12:1 **Six days** before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where **Lazarus lived**, (**Friday 4 April 27AD Jesus came to Bethany for the week of preparation**) whom Jesus had raised from the dead (**on Wednesday 2 April 27AD**). 2 Here a **dinner** was given in Jesus' honor (**on Monday 7 April 27AD - John included it here in order to fit his narrative**). **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. (**This is consecration to royal service i.e. to death by which saving sovereignty comes.**) And the house was filled with the **fragrance** of the perfume.

Mark 14:1 Now (**Monday 7 April 27AD**) the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only **two days** away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were **scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him**. 2 "But not during the festival," they said, "or the people may riot." 3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

4 But one of his disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, (**Judas already had an evil spirit**) 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**; (**The critical in spirit is often sinning in other ways too**) as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. (**Why not stop him?**)

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." (**Yes we should help the poor but not to the exclusion of furthering the kingdom of God.**)

Palm Sunday

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**. (**What an attraction to see a live dead man**) 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. (**Going over instead of being good Pharisees.**)

12 The **next day** (**Sunday 6 April 27AD is the next non-Sabbath day**) the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took **palm branches** (**Palm branches are a sign of homage to the victor**) and went out to meet him, (**They welcome him as king who conquered death**) shouting, "Hosanna!" ("**Hosannah**" means **do please save and is an exclamation of praise**) "Blessed is he **who comes** in the name of the **Lord!**" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" (**During Feast of Tabernacles Ps 113-118 was sung each morning by the temple choir. When Ps 118:25 was reached every male shook the lulab - called hosannas colloquially (willow and myrtle tied with palm) and repeated Hosanna 3 times.**) **Psalm 118:24 KJV This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Psalm 118:25 LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! 26 Blessed is he **who comes** in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

Matthew 11:3 to ask him, "Are you the one **who is to come**, or should we expect someone else?"

14 Jesus found a young donkey (**Not a horse for war but a donkey for peace. No uprising against the Romans**) and sat on it, as it is **written**: 15 "Do not be **afraid**, (**Fear is opposite of rejoicing**) Daughter Zion; see, your **king** is coming, seated on a **donkey's colt**." (**Humbly coming, though King of kings.**) **Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a **donkey**, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

16 **At first** his disciples did not understand all this. (**Hindsight causes them to see him as King of Peace and salvation thru dying and rising**) 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**. (**Jesus fulfilled prophecy without the disciples realizing it and they even had a part in getting Jesus to do what would fulfill prophecy.**)

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. (**They saw a great miracle and are telling others - they too will want to know more**) 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!"

Inspecting the Lamb

Exodus 12:6 OJB And it will be with you for mishmeret (**examination**, checking for blemishes) up until the fourteenth day of the same month; and kol Kehal Adat Yisroel shall slaughter (shachat) it in the afternoon [before dark].

Monday 7 April 27AD Matthew 21:13 ... 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.' ... 19 **Seeing a fig tree by the road**, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "**May you never bear fruit again!**" ... 43 "... **the kingdom of God will be taken away from you** and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ... 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, **they knew he was talking about them.** ... 22:15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to **trap him in his words.** ... 21 ... "**give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.**" ... 29 ... **you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.** ... 32 ... **He is not the God of the dead but of the living.**"

Luke 21:7 ... "what will be the sign that they are about to take place?" 8 He replied: "**Watch out that you are not deceived.** For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. ... 12 "But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and **all on account of my name.** ... 16 You will be **betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.** 17 **Everyone will hate you because of me.** ... 20 "**When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.** ... 24... taken as prisoners to all the nations. **Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.** ... 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man **coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

20 Now (**Monday 7 April 27AD**) there were some **Greeks (They saw the cleansing of the temple in the court of the Gentiles)** among those who went up to worship at the festival. 21 They came to **Philip, (They seek Jesus and come to one like them with a Greek name who would understand them)** 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. (Andrew brings people to Jesus)**

23 Jesus replied, "The **hour (This is His hour to be crucified and resurrected)** 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. (**Jesus remained the only Son until he died and produced many sons**) 25 Anyone who **loves** their **life** will lose it, (**Do not love your physical life. Love your spiritual life**) while anyone who **hates** their **life in this world** will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me **must follow me; (Follow Jesus wherever he leads)** and where I am, my servant also will be. (**Stay in tune with Jesus**) My Father will **honor** the one who serves me.

27 "Now my **soul is troubled, (Still Jesus would physically suffer and it would be difficult)** and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this **hour?**' (**Agony of soul**) No, it was for **this very reason (Jesus was born to die)** I came to this hour. 28 Father, **glorify your name!**" (**God is glorified in Jesus' death and resurrection**) Then a voice came from heaven, "**I have glorified it, (Jesus name was "Yahweh saves" and thus his coming glorified Yahweh) and will glorify it again.**" (**God glorified his name not only at the birth but at the death and resurrection**) 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. (Jesus needed no confirmation)** 31 Now (**Satan was judged and condemned at that time - though his punishment comes later**) is the time for **judgment** on this world; (**The world's people are judged for their sin - and Jesus takes their punishment**) now the **prince of this world will be driven out. (Satan was driven out of our hearts. Satan is dethroned - Jesus is enthroned from a cross to heaven's throne) (Revelation 12:5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.)** 32 And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will **draw all people to myself.**" (**It attracts people to know God cared enough to die**) 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, (**Since Christ lives forever, how can he die?**) (**Psalm 89:36 that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; 37 it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.**") so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be **lifted up**'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" (**What kind of Son of Man is this?**)

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. (Without Christ people are lost)** 36 **Believe in the light** while you have the light, (**Trust Christ while he is dealing with you**) so that you may **become children of light.**" When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and **hid himself from them.**

37 Even after Jesus had performed so many **signs** in their presence, **they** still would not believe in him. (**The Logos has been rejected here and in the prophets**) 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?"

Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

39 **For this reason (God blinded the eyes of those whose deeds are evil)** they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: 40 "**He has blinded** their eyes and hardened their hearts, (**Thru the normal process God set in place**) so they can **neither see** with their eyes, nor **understand** with their hearts, (**Sin blinds the eyes and thus God has done it by putting such a system in place**) nor **turn**—and I would heal them." (**God cannot heal the unrepentant.**)

Isaiah 6:9 He said, "Go and tell this people: " 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving. 10 **Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.**"

41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. (**Isaiah saw Jesus' day in the spirit realm.**)

Isaiah 6:1 (758 BC) In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the **Lord**, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the **LORD Almighty**; the whole earth is full of his **glory.**" 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

42 Yet at the same time many even among the **leaders** believed in him. (**Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea and others believe**) 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. (Even leaders feared because of the social/spiritual threat.)**

44 Then Jesus cried out, "**Whoever believes in me** does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. (**Knowing Christ is knowing God**) 45 The one who **looks** at me is **seeing** the one who sent me. (**Seeing Christ is seeing God**) 46 I have come into the world as a **light**, so that no one who believes in me should **stay in darkness. (Jesus came to bring out of darkness - not condemn those who already see.)**

47 "If anyone hears my words but **does not keep them, (Disobedience to Jesus does not bring on judgment from Jesus)** 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 (His words judge, not he himself)** 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. (**Jesus speaks what God told him to say**) 50 I know that his **command leads to eternal life. (God's commands lead to life)** So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." (**No arbitrary judgment, but one based clearly on the words that have been given. We are not judged mysteriously but by plain spoken words - thus we already know whether we are accepted by God or not.**)

Psalm 118:24 KJV This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.