

# John 12

## Mary Anoints Jesus; Jesus' Triumphal Entry; Jesus' Final Appeal

### Day 1

### Read John 12:1-11

### Mary anoints Jesus

1. Note the “*therefore*” in 12:1. Why did Jesus go back to Judea? (See Luke 9:51)

**For Your Information:** “*Bethany* – A village on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives, about two miles from Jerusalem and the final station on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem.”  
- The NIV Study Bible (1472)

2. What was each one of the family members doing? 12:2,3 (Imagine the atmosphere and the conversations they may have had.)

- Martha:
  
  
  
- Lazarus:
  
  
  
- Mary:

3. Compare Mary and Judas in 12:3-6:

	Mary	Judas
Attitude		(Compare Mark 14:4,5)
Motive		

- How are they each remembered?

#### **Optional Digging Deeper**

From Matthew 20:17-19 (also Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34), what information did Jesus share with His disciples on the way to Jerusalem?

How had Peter reacted to this earlier? Matt. 16:21-23

#### **Optional Digging Deeper**

Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:1-9 describe the same or a similar anointing a few days later. See Luke 7:36-50 for what seems to have been an earlier anointing.

**For Your Information:** “Mary’s gift was remarkably *extravagant*. She used a lot (**a pound**) of a **very costly oil of spikenard**. Spices and ointments were often used as an investment because they occupied a small space, were portable, and were easily negotiable in the open market. Judas believed this oil was worth *300 denarii* (John 12:5), which was worth a year’s wages for a working man.”  
- David Guzik

“Mary’s act was also an unusual act, both because she poured the oil on Jesus’ feet (normally it was poured on the head) and because she used her hair to wipe them (a respectable woman did not unbind her hair in public). Further, it shows her humility, for it was a servant’s work to attend to the feet.”  
- The NIV Study Bible (1620)

4. What significance did Jesus give to Mary's actions? 12:7 (Compare Mark 14:6-9)
- How did Jesus respond to Judas' objection? 12:8 (Compare Deuteronomy 15:11))
5. What was attracting the "large crowd/great multitude" to Jerusalem? 12:9 (Cf. 12:17,18)
6. Why were the chief priests plotting against Jesus? 12:10,11 (Cf. 11:47,48)
- What was stopping them? Mark 14:1,2

**Food for Thought:** "It is interesting to note that only the chief priests are mentioned here. They were from the Sadducees' party, which did not believe in the resurrection, and the fact that Lazarus was alive contradicted their beliefs." (See Acts 23:8)  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1277)

**Applying the Word:** If you had a year's wages to spend for Christ, what would you do with it?

## Day 2

### Read John 12:12-19

#### Jesus enters Jerusalem

7. What do the words of the multitude (12:12,13) tell you about their hopes and plans for Jesus? (See John 6:15; Leviticus 23:39,40)
- Why do you think Jesus allowed this display of public enthusiasm, when earlier He had discouraged it (see 6:15; 7:1-8)?

**For Your Information:** "*hosanna* NT:5614, in the Hebrew, means 'save, we pray.' The people's cry at the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem...was taken from Ps 118, which was recited at the Feast of Tabernacles...accompanied by the waving of palm and willow branches."  
-Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"**Hosanna**' is not an exclamation of praise, but the Hebrew imperative which means 'save now.' The Passover expectation was the return of God's Messiah to deliver His people. The crowd, by the application of this Psalm to Jesus, gave Him the place of messiahship - and called upon Him to reveal His power."  
- Merrill Tenney (184)

"Their final cry, '**Blessed is the King of Israel**' (12:13), underscores their view that Jesus' mission was to rule Israel and that His immediate task was to win victory over the Romans. They were ready to follow Him into battle."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1278)

"The crowds looked to Jesus as a political and national savior, but not a spiritual savior."  
- David Guzik

8. How did the people feel three days later? Mark 15:6-15

9. What did Jesus do to fulfill prophecy? 12:14,15 (See Mark 11:1-7 for more details.)

- Read Zechariah 9:9. List the words or phrases that describe Jesus at this Messianic coming. What does this say about His objective? (*“Daughter of Zion” is a tender expression for the citizens of Jerusalem.* - Charles Swindoll)

**Optional Digging Deeper**

How does this scene in John differ from Jesus' 2nd coming? Revelation 19:11-16 (Note the titles given to Jesus at His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.)

10. What was it going to take to bring understanding of Jesus' earthly mission? 12:16 (Compare Luke 24:6-8,25-27,44-47)

**For Your Information:** "The [donkey] was used by judges and kings in the Old Testament on errands of peace; the horse was used mainly as a charger in battle. By this conscious fulfillment of prophecy, Jesus offered Himself as a king of peace, not as a warrior. He asserted royal claims, but not in the military manner. The ensuing bewilderment of the disciples was caused by their inability to reconcile His willingness to be recognized as the King of Israel with His unwillingness to exert the secular authority which they thought all kings should use" - Merrill C. Tenney (185)

**Optional Digging Deeper**

How did Jesus feel as He approached Jerusalem and what did He do after entering the city? Luke 19:41-48

11. Why was the crowd seeking Jesus? 12:17-18 (Contrast 11:57.)

- How did the Pharisees feel about the situation? 12:19

**For Your Information:** "[The Pharisee's] reaction belies their true motive. They prized the approval of men above all else – above truth, above the Law, above even the welfare of Israel. Because the arrival of the Messiah would shift the loyalty of the people away from them, leaving them powerless, they had no other option but to eliminate Jesus." - Charles Swindoll (215)

12. Underline how the gospel writers described the people's regard for Jesus.

- Matthew 21:45-46 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. NIV
- Mark 11:18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill Him, for they feared Him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. NIV
- Luke 19:47-48 Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words. NIV

*Applying the Word:* What part do you think Jesus should have in the political/social aspect of our lives?

### Day 3

#### Read John 12:20-36

#### Certain Greeks seek Jesus

13. From 12:20-21, what do you learn about the Greeks who approached Philip? (Compare Matthew 2:1,2)

**For Your Information:** " In NT times, Greeks or Hellenists were foreign Jews who spoke Greek, which the conquests of Alexander had made the language of the educated throughout the Near East, and also the language of the masses in the great centers of commerce. Some would include under the name Hellenists, proselytes of Greek birth."

- The New Unger's Bible Dictionary

14. What was Jesus' hour? 12:23,24 (Compare 13:1,3. Contrast 7:6,30; 8:20)

- How was the Son of Man going to be glorified? 12:24 (See Revelation 5:9-14)

15. What would have happened if Jesus hadn't died? 12:24a

- What happened because of His death? 12:24b

16. In your own words, what do you think Jesus meant by the challenge He gave to His followers in 12:25? (Compare Luke 9:23-26)

**IT'S GREEK TO ME** "*hate* NT:3404, is used...(c) of relative preference for one thing over another...**John 12:25, of disregard for one's life relatively to the claims of Christ**" - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"The phrase '*loves his life*' describes those who serve only themselves."

- The Nelson Study Bible (1789)

"The person who **loves** his life, seeking to retain it, really **destroys** it. Self-interest and self-preservation are ultimately self-defeating. The harder one tries to live for self, the less of life one really has, until at the end there is nothing left of it at all, and one has nothing to show for it."

- W. Hall Harris, Ph.D.

"The expression '*who hates his life*' need not be understood to mean a contempt for oneself...Rather, it is a hyperbolic expression that means one is to base his priorities on that which is outside of himself. He is to place others or another above himself. In this instance, it is to make Christ the Master of one's life."

- Expositor's Bible Commentary (129)

17. What benefits do we reap when we follow Jesus?

12:24	<i>"If a grain of wheat...dies"</i>	<i>"it bears much fruit"</i>
12:25	<i>"He who hates his life in this world"</i>	
12:26a	<i>"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me"</i>	
12:26b	<i>"If anyone serves me"</i>	

18. What hope would Jesus' words have given to the Greeks? (See especially 12:26,32. Compare 1:12; 3:16)

### **Jesus proclaims His death**

19. How did Jesus feel about His death? 12:27a (Mark 14:33-35; Hebrews 12:2)

20. What choice did Jesus make? 12:27b,28a

- What did God's answer indicate about the decision? 12:28b

21. What do the reactions of the people suggest about God's voice? 12:29 (Compare Acts 22:9)

- Why would God's confirmation of the Son be for the sake of the people? 12:30 (Cf. 11:42)

22. What two things were confronted by Jesus' death on the cross? 12:31 (Compare Colossians 2:14,15)

#### ***Optional Digging Deeper***

See Matthew 3:17; 17:5 for other times that God spoke His approval of the Son.

#### ***Optional Digging Deeper***

What connection is made between Satan and the world?

2 Corinthians 4:4

Ephesians 6:12

1 John 5:19

Revelation 12:9

***Food For Thought:*** "The attitude of obedience to the Father was a judgment of the world because the cross displayed the contrast between the obedience of Christ and the rebelliousness of man. It was a victory over the devil because the sacrifice of God triumphed over the selfishness which is the root of the devil's whole philosophy. The prince of this world has gained his place by self-seeking, through trickery, deceit, and cruelty. The Son of God draws all men to Himself by dying a humiliating death in purity and honesty and forgiveness. Ultimate victory will rest with Christ."  
- Merrill C. Tenney (188)

23. What did Jesus' death accomplish for mankind? 12:32 (Compare 6:32; Ephesians 2:6)

- Amazingly, what did Jesus know about His death? 12:33

**For Your Information:** "*If I am lifted up from the earth*: The verb used for **lifted up** (the ancient Greek word *hypsōthenai*) has a deliberate double meaning. It means both a literal *elevation* (as in being raised up on a cross) and *exaltation* (being raised in rank or honor)." - David Guzik

24. Underline the burdens that Jesus bore for us.

- Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. NIV
- Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." NIV
- 1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. NIV

25. Why did the multitudes object to the idea of the death of the Messiah? 12:34 (See Psalm 45:6; Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 2:44)

**For Your Information:** "The people had been taught only the passages from the law (the Old Testament) which speak of the triumph of the Messiah. They were virtually unaware of the passages that speak of His suffering (such as Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53). This crowd who greeted a political conqueror with such enthusiasm didn't want to consider His sacrificial death. It didn't fit in with their idea of what a Messiah should be." - David Guzik

26. Instead of giving a direct answer, what two commands and the reasons for following them did Jesus give?

	<i>Command</i>	<i>Reason/Benefit for following</i>
12:35		
12:36		

- How did this provide the ultimate answer to their question (12:34)? (Compare John 7:17; 14:23)

**Applying the Word:** *In what ways is the Lord asking you to die to self and live for Him? Is there anything that is holding you back?*

## Day 4

### Read John 12:36-50

#### The belief of the people

27. What did Jesus do again in 12:36b? What does this say about the timing of His arrest and death? (Cross-reference 8:59, 10:39)

28. How successful had Jesus' ministry been? 12:37

- How many miracles had Jesus done? Matthew 9:35; Mark 6:56

29. Who had foretold the rejection of Jesus? 12:38 (*John 12:38 is quoted from Isaiah 53:1.*)

- From Isaiah 53, what picture is given of Jesus' life?

30. (*John 12:40 is quoted from Isaiah 6:10 which describes the unbelief of the people in Isaiah's day and prophetically of Jesus' day.*) What did God do because of the people's unbelief? 12:40a

- What were they unable to receive because of this? 12:40b

31. When Isaiah described the glory of God, who was he writing about? 12:41

**For Your Information:** "John quoted two passages from Isaiah to explain the unbelieving response on the part of Israel's religious leaders. Both support his explanation that the nonbelievers were 'blinded' and 'hardened' by God and therefore could not believe. While this sounds patently unfair...one must understand the nature of divine 'hardening.' In the case of Jesus, truth becomes the means by which hearts were either softened to the point of surrender or hardened in their chosen state of rebellion."  
- Charles Swindoll (218)

**"Because he saw His glory and he spoke of Him" (12:41)** "The thought of glory here is complex. There is the idea of majesty, and there is also the idea (which meant so much to John) that Jesus' death on the cross and His subsequent resurrection and exaltation show His real glory...This is the cross and this is glory, for the cross and resurrection and exaltation portray both suffering and healing, rejection and triumph, humiliation and glory."  
- The NIV Study Bible (1622)

32. What was keeping even those who believed in Jesus from declaring their belief? 12:42-43 (Compare 12:25)

### **Jesus' teachings**

33. In His final appeal, what did Jesus say:

- about His relationship to the Father? 12:44,45 (Cf. 14:9)
- about belief in Him? 12:46
- about *not* believing in Him? 12:47,48
- about His teachings? 12:49,50

**For Your Information:** "Christ, will judge, but at His first coming He did not come to judge but to save (3:17)."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1790)

"Faith in [Christ] is not intellectual and spiritual complacency, resting on fixed conclusions which have long since ceased to be vital. Facing light requires enlargement of understanding and new ventures in experience. It is the opposite of uncertainty, aimlessness, and negation (12:26). He is the only way out of the darkness of sin which enshrouds all men. Unbelief is not a polite unwillingness to assent to some fact, but is a flat refusal to listen to His truth and to acknowledge His claims on one's personal life...God's message in Christ is thus the hope of the believer and the condemnation of the unbeliever."  
- Merrill C. Tenney (195,196)

34. How would you summarize Jesus' final appeal (12:44-50)? (*How do you picture Him saying these words - e.g. His face, tone, gestures?*)

**Optional Digging Deeper**  
Memorize John 12:26

**IT'S GREEK TO ME** "**cried**" *krazo* Strong's 2896; *krazo*; a primary verb; properly, to "croak" (as a raven) or scream, i.e. (genitive case) to call aloud (shriek, exclaim, intreat)  
- Strong's Concordance

"**to cry out**", an onomatopoeic word, used especially of the 'cry' of the raven; then, of any inarticulate cries, from fear, pain etc...In John's gospel it is used three times, out of the six, of Christ's utterances, 7:28,37; 12:44." - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"Jesus insisted that anyone who believed in Him was at the same time exercising belief in God the Father. Jesus explained that He was the personal manifestation of God (see 1:18; Col. 1:15; Hebrews 1:3)" - The Nelson Study Bible (1790)

**Applying the Word:** *How would you explain your faith as a personal relationship with the Lord? Where have you been the most amazed by Jesus' light shining through the darkness?*