

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Twenty
Gospel of John
John 12: 1-50

Extravagant love for Jesus

John 12:1-11

Do you know the love that knows no bounds? As Jesus dines with his beloved friends, Mary does something which only love can do. She took the most precious thing she had and spent it all on Jesus. Her love was not calculated but extravagant.

Mary's action was motivated by one thing, and one thing only, namely, her love for Jesus and her gratitude for God's mercy. She did something, however, a Jewish woman would never do in public. She loosed her hair and anointed Jesus with her tears.

It was customary for a woman on her wedding day to bound her hair. For a married woman to loosen her hair in public was a sign of grave immodesty.

Mary was oblivious to all around her, except for Jesus. She took no thought for what others would think, but what would please her Lord. In humility she stooped to anoint Jesus' feet and to dry them with her hair. How do you anoint the Lord's feet and show him your love and gratitude?

"Look, the world has gone after him"

John 12:12-19

The Jewish people had long expected that the Messiah would come at Passover time. When news spread that Jesus had raised his friend Lazarus from the dead and was now on his way to Jerusalem for the Passover, the crowds gathered in great excitement to greet him.

When they saw him approaching from the Mount of Olives they went out to hail him as their Messiah King. They shouted the prophetic words of Psalm 118:25-26: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord-- the King of Israel!"

The Jewish people had sung this victory psalm every year during the Feast of Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles. This psalm praises God for delivering his people from bondage in Egypt and points to the day when God's anointed King will enter Jerusalem as its conquering hero. The word "hosanna" in Hebrew literally means "save, pray!" or "save now!"

**“unless a grain of wheat falls into the
ground and dies.... but if dies, it
produces much grain”**

John 12:20-26

How can we meet Jesus in our lives and introduce him to others who are searching for him? John tells us that some Greek travelers who came to Jerusalem for the Passover wanted to meet Jesus. They were not Jews, but were devout seekers of God.

It was not unusual for Greeks to travel the then known world. Greeks loved to journey and discover new things. When these Greeks heard of Jesus, they wanted to meet him personally, but didn't know how to approach him. So they did something a Greek would feel comfortable doing. They found a sympathetic looking insider named Philip, a disciple of Jesus whose name happened to be a Greek name, and asked him how they could meet with Jesus.

Philip surprisingly didn't know what to say. Andrew fortunately stepped in and personally introduced these foreigners to Jesus. How can we help people discover the Lord Jesus today?

One of the best ways to introduce people to the Lord is to invite them to "come and see" the Lord present among his people when they gather for prayer, bible study, and the "breaking of the bread" at the Lord's Table.

"Now my soul is troubled"

John 12:27-43

In Jesus' last public discourse shortly before the time of Passover and his impending betrayal and death on a cross, Jesus spoke openly of his anguish of soul. Unlike the other Gospel accounts, John's gospel does not describe Jesus' agony in the Garden on the eve of his sacrifice. But here John does describe Jesus' emotional and spiritual anguish as his "hour" approaches.

What is this inner struggle which Jesus underwent as he anticipates his hour of trial and confrontation with those who sought to destroy him? It certainly would be a natural reaction for anyone to turn away from suffering and humiliation.

Jesus knew that he could have chosen to avoid the cross and the scandal and shame it would have brought him. That is why he posed the question: "Father, save me from this hour?" Jesus courageously chose to suffer and die, not only in obedience to his Father, but for our sake and for our salvation.

He freely embraced the cross without any resentment or self-pity, because he knew that the cross would bring glory to his Father and victory for us.

"I did not come to judge the world but to save the world"

John 12: 44-50

Do you seek to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God and his word? In Jesus' last public discourse before his death and resurrection (according to John's gospel), he confronted his audience with a stark choice: accept him and his message as the true light which comes from God or receive the consequences of disbelief and rejection, namely judgment and eternal darkness.

Why does Jesus speak of himself as the *light of the world*? In the scriptures *light* is associated with God's truth and life. Psalm 27 exclaims, *The Lord is my light and my salvation*. Just as natural light exposes the darkness and reveals what is hidden, so God's word enables those with *eyes of faith* to perceive the hidden truths of God's kingdom. Natural light also brings warmth and enables seed to sprout and living things to grow. Jesus' words produce life — the very *life of God* — within those who receive it with faith.

To reject Jesus' words is to reject the Word of God and to bring condemnation upon oneself. Jesus made it clear that he did not come to condemn, but rather to bring life and freedom to those who would accept him.