

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 01.22-2023

WE WANT TO SEE JESUS -JOHN 12:12-33

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

According to Pastor Daniel “The story we’re about to read is going to set in motion a chain of events that will culminate in Jesus’ death at the end of the week. The religious leaders wanted to deal with Jesus, but they wanted to wait until after the Passover feast to do that. However, after the events of this day they were compelled to act sooner. Jesus forced their hand. Why? Because He needed to be crucified on Passover to fulfill all the types and shadows that that feast portrayed. It was also lamb selection day. This was the day when every Jewish family would select the lamb that would be sacrificed on Passover later that week. The lamb was to be taken into the home to be inspected and to make sure that it was without spot or blemish. How fitting then, that Jesus, ‘the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, {John 1:29}’ Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?
2. When was a time you had high expectations for an event that turned out to be different than you expected?
3. What are some expectations you or others might have about Jesus? How do you respond when you realize that Jesus is not always as you expect Him to be?

Jesus came not as a political victor but as one glorified through suffering. Those who place their faith in Him as He truly is, and not only as they desire Him to be, will not be put to shame but receive the gift of eternal life.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 12:12-16

1. What did the people testify about Jesus in their praises?
2. What do you think the crowds were expecting when they welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem with such fanfare? How did they misunderstand what God had planned for Jesus?
3. Considering the fact the crowds and disciples didn’t understand what Jesus was planning to do, how He would save them, and that Jesus knew they were all about to turn on Him, why do you think He allowed the celebration to continue as He entered Jerusalem?

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey was the deliberate display of Israel’s king coming with God’s offer of peace. He was the Son of David, chosen to sit on David’s throne. He was the One of whom the prophet Zechariah had spoken (Zech. 9:9). Yet it was no small irony that the people, by using palm branches in their celebration, were heralding Jesus as a political king, not the humble Shepherd-King He was portraying Himself as. The palm branch was a significant symbol of military victory for the Jews, which means the people displayed them expecting Jesus to be their political or militaristic king. In chanting, “Hosanna” (“Save now”), along with other phrases from Psalm 118, the Jews were using a common patriotic or nationalistic cheer—another affirmation that the Jews looked to Jesus as their political savior.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 12:17-26

1. When did the disciples understand the significance of these things – 12:16?

“PROMISES” in 2023

2. What other reason did the multitudes have for honoring Jesus – 12:17,18?
3. How were the Pharisees affected by the greeting Jesus received – 12:19?
4. What did certain Greeks request? To whom did they address the request – 12:20,21?
5. What request did Jesus not make of the Father? Why not – 12:27?

This section concludes the first major unit of John’s Gospel, which narrates Jesus’s mission to the Jews. The approach of some Greeks signaled that Jesus’s mission was approaching the climax in which he would die and thus reach all nations. His “hour” was now at hand (vv. 23-26); the Son of Man would shortly be “lifted up” (crucified) by men and highly exalted by God the Father (12:32). After these things Jesus would be able to draw people (Jews and non-Jews) to himself (12:32). Further, the Jewish nation would suffer judgment for rejecting Messiah, who had performed so many signs among them (vv. 37-40).

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 12:27-33

1. Do you find it odd that Jesus, of all people, was troubled? Why should one who could heal the sick or raise the dead in any way be troubled?

Jesus, alluding to His impending death on the cross, expressed the horror that was gripping His soul. Jesus underwent a crisis moment, but He quickly reminded Himself that it was for this very purpose He came. He knew it was His destiny. As horrible as the reality was in that moment, and as much as He longed to not endure it, He knew it was God’s will for Him and He persevered in obedience.

2. In what sense was Jesus’s death on the cross an act of judgment of the world (v. 31a)?
3. According to Jesus, what impact would His death on the cross have on Satan (v. 31b)? Read Revelation 12:11 for further insight.
4. At the end of v. 32, Jesus gave a third impact of his death. What was that? What does it mean? What are its implications for you and I?

Jesus stated that through His death on the cross, not only would the world be judged and Satan defeated, but people would be drawn to Him. That is, they would be saved. “All people” cannot mean “every person,” since the judgment of others also takes place in the cross. Rather, as the surrounding context and the overall theological emphasis of the Gospel of John demonstrates, “all people” is a reference to all people groups.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Andrew is one of the unsung heroes of the New Testament. He may not have played a starring role in the gospel story or been part of Jesus’ innermost circle of disciples, but he is a hero, nonetheless. One notable fact about Andrew is that he was Jesus’ very first disciple. Something else you should know about him is he was the one who introduced Simon Peter to Jesus. Without Andrew, we wouldn’t have Peter! Peter and Andrew were brothers. Maybe you’re the type of person who is happier serving quietly behind the scene in the background than you would be standing on a stage. You’re shy. You avoid the spotlight. That’s ok. Like Andrew, you can introduce people to Jesus and bring them to church.

1. How have you been challenged by today’s study regarding what it means to truly follow Jesus? What needs to change in your life?

“PROMISES” in 2023

2. Who in your life might need to hear the warning of Jesus this week? What are some ways you might humbly but truthfully extend that warning?
3. How can the authority of Jesus as seen in John 12 encourage you to boldly share the gospel and the warnings that come along with it?

PRAYER – Lead your group in prayer thanking Jesus for His willingness to tell you the truth. Ask for the strength and courage to daily respond to His voice, even when that response requires you to be uncomfortably honest and forthright with those around you.

" Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever." {Daniel 12:3}