



## WHY DIE?

*Many wanted to crown Jesus as King—but He came to die. Discover why the cross wasn't a tragedy, but the only way life could multiply—and what that means for you.*

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## teachingnotes

\* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

When Jesus makes his way down the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, there are some significant reasons why the people celebrated Him as they did. The people had heard about Him - His miracles and his teachings. So...

### John 11:55-57

Now **the Jewish Passover was near**, and **many went up to Jerusalem** from the country to purify themselves before the Passover. **They were looking for Jesus** and asking one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? He won't come to the festival, will he?" The chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should report it so that they could arrest him.

There was the unbelievable event that had just occurred only a couple miles away, just on the other side of the Mount of Olives.

**John 12:1** Six days before the Passover, **Jesus came to Bethany** where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead.

**Bethany** was only 2 miles away from Jerusalem, just over the Mount of Olives. Earlier in the same writing, John 11, we see Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the tomb for 4 days! But that dead man didn't stay dead! Jesus called to him and Lazarus arose - a vivid picture of what it will look like in the future for all who have died, according to what Jesus taught.

**John 5:25, 28-29** Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God**, and **those who hear will live**...Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who **are in the graves will hear his voice and come out**...

### John 12:9-11

Then **a large crowd of the Jews learned he was there**. They came not only because of **Jesus** but also to see Lazarus, the one he had raised from the dead. But the chief priests had decided to kill **Lazarus** also, because **he was the reason many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus**.

What Jesus did for Lazarus couldn't be denied. Lazarus' very life - breathing, eating, talking - was a living testimony to the power and authority of Jesus. People were lining up to see **Jesus & Lazarus**.

But the **chief priests** - family members of the high priest, Caiaphas - decided to **kill** both Jesus and Lazarus. With all this heat, would Jesus show up to the Passover celebration (Jn 11:56)?

### John 12:12-13

The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took **palm branches** and went out to meet him. They kept shouting: "**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!**"

Like a victorious king returning from battle in their day, the people **went out to meet** Jesus and usher Him back into the city.

**Palm branches** had long been a symbol of freedom for the Jewish people.

- The people called out to Jesus: "Hosanna" - an Aramaic term meaning "**save us**", followed by the phrase, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" - and they specifically recognized Jesus as the long awaited Messiah - "**the King of Israel**".
- What the people said comes from a well known **phrase of praise to God, quoting the Hallel (praise) song from Ps. 118**.

**Psalm 118:25-26** O **Yahweh, save!** O Yahweh, succeed! **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Yahweh;** We have blessed you from the house of Yahweh.

✓ **Jesus did what most Jews expected their Messiah to do.** He worked miracles, healing all kinds of diseases.

Causing the lame to walk. Bringing sight to the blind. Casting out demons. Multiplying meals to feed thousands.

Jesus controlled nature (known to the apostles of Jesus). Jesus raised the dead! Jesus taught with an authority they had never heard before.

During a previous visit to Jerusalem during the Festival of Shelters...

#### John 7:31

...many from the crowd believed in him and said, "**When the Messiah comes, he won't perform more signs than this man has done**, will he?"

Later that week, "On the last and most important day of the festival..."

#### John 7:37-38

...Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who **believes in me**, as the Scripture has said, **will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.**"

**NO PROPHET EVER TALKED LIKE THAT!** They told people to believe in Yahweh, not themselves! Yet Jesus told the people, "**Come to ME. Believe in ME.**" Some did believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Others did not.

Religious leaders recognized the miracles, teaching, and wisdom of Jesus when they confronted Him and asked an important question on the temple mount during winter.

#### John 10:24-27

The Jews surrounded him and asked, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

"I did tell you and you don't believe," Jesus answered them. "The works that I do in my Father's name testify about me.

But you don't believe because you are not of my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they **follow me.**

Those **sheep** included the apostles of Jesus, and when He asked them who they thought he was, Peter responded by saying...

#### Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, "You are **the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**"

Right after Peter and the apostles note that *THEY* believe Jesus is **the Messiah, the Son of God** (Mt 16:16), look at what happens.

#### Matthew 16:20-23

Then he gave the disciples orders to tell no one that he was the Messiah. From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary for him to **go to Jerusalem and suffer** many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, **be killed**, and **be raised the third day.**

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!" Jesus turned and told Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you're not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns."

*Peter had a tradition that was different from the TRUTH.* Despite the many Scriptural prophecies pointing to the Messiah's suffering for & paying for the sin of others, Peter had been told and had believed that the Messiah would never die.

Jesus continued to hammer home what was soon to occur.

#### Mark 9:30-32

Then they left that place and made their way through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know it. For he was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will **kill him**, and after he is killed, **he will rise three days later.**" But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him.

Later on, Jesus brings this harsh reality up AGAIN to His disciples.

#### Mark 10:32-34

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem...Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them the things that would happen to him. "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. **The Son of Man will be** handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will **condemn him to death.** Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles, and they will **mock him, spit on him, flog him, and kill him**, and **he will rise after three days.**"

While on the Mount of Olives, just outside of Jerusalem, Jesus told His disciples about the future destruction of the city and of those who refused to follow Him.

#### Matthew 26:1-2

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he told his disciples, "You know that the Passover takes place after two days, and **the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.**"

**Crucified!!!?** That's the most brutal way to DIE! Jesus is the Messiah? **WHY DIE?** Just claim the CROWN and take over! That's what the Jewish people *EXPECTED*, *what His own disciples expected.* But NOT DEATH...not for the Messiah!

#### John 12:23-24

..."The hour has come for **the Son of Man to be glorified.** Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But **if it dies, it produces much fruit.**

A grain of wheat falls to the ground and gets buried in the soil, *seemingly dead.* It's gone and forgotten...but what looks like death is actually the beginning of multiplication - and in just a little while, LIFE breaks out through the soil and produces more grains of wheat!

**If it doesn't DIE, it doesn't MULTIPLY.**

Jesus would DIE, be BURIED, and RISE AGAIN, **glorified** as His kingdom begins **produces much fruit** (like us)!

### John 12:25-26

The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for **eternal life**. If anyone serves me, **he must follow me**. Where I am, there my servant also will be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

The use of the terms "love" and "hate" is referring to what has PRIORITY in your life. What you LOVE is what has top priority in your life. What you "hate" is something that is moved down the priority list.

- If you **love** your life - if YOUR SELF, if YOUR DESIRES are 1st place - then...you will lose eternal life.
- To **hate** your life **in this world** means that you have moved YOUR SELF and your DESIRES down the priority list. Jesus doesn't want you to **hate** life on this side of eternity, but He demands that we **follow** Him. We die to our old selfish and sinful lives and enter eternal life.

Regarding our sinful & selfish lives...**WHY DIE?**

### ***If it doesn't DIE, it doesn't MULTIPLY.***

Problem is...Everyone wants FRUIT, but nobody wants the DEATH.

We want the blessing...without the burial. We want the crown...without the cross.

### John 12:27-28a

Now my soul is troubled. What should I say—Father, save me from this hour? But **that is why I came** to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Just a few moments later Jesus says something that goes against their tradition, their expectation of the Messiah.

### John 12:32-34

As for me, if **I am lifted up** from the earth I will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate what kind of death he was about to die. Then the crowd replied to him, "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?"

**Draw all people to Himself?** *How in the world could crucifixion do THAT?* As Jesus entered into Jerusalem that week, He knew it wouldn't be long before His purpose for coming would be fulfilled, *crucified* rather than *crowned*. Jesus would be arrested in Gethsemane by the Jews who wanted Him dead. Jesus would stand before the Sanhedrin, and be condemned for blasphemy. He would be beaten spit on, and ridiculed by His own people. And just as Jesus predicted, He was handed over by His own people - the Jews, to the Gentiles.

The **Romans brutalized Him**, beating him over the head with a stick, mocking him, spitting on Him, beating Him with their fists, & scourging Him with whips that contained lead balls & sharp bones that would bruise & rip open the skin. Finally, **Jesus was crucified** like a criminal, in between 2 criminals. And after 6 hours on the cross, praying & caring for others, suffering through excruciating pain, being mocked & ridiculed, the Lord Jesus breathed His last breath.

*The week that started off with people wanting to CROWN Jesus king, ended with Jesus being CRUCIFIED instead.*

### **WHY DIE?**

Something else happened on the cross, something no one could see, but something that we must all appreciate.

### 1 Peter 2:24-25

**He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree**; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed**. For you were like sheep going astray, but you have now **returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls**.

**Jesus bore OUR SIN!** Our lies, our sexual impurity, our drunkenness, our selfishness, our cutting words toward others...were placed **ON HIM!** His life was substituted for yours, your sin given to Him.

**THIS...is what should draw us to Jesus**, thankfulness & appreciation that He went to the cross to pay for OUR sin - thankfulness & appreciating that He has forgiven us & made us CLEAN!

### **3 Questions:**

1. **Are you FORGIVEN?** HAVE you returned to the Shepherd of your soul?
2. **Are you LIVIN' FORGIVEN?** Or, are you still living like YOU want rather than how HE wants you to? What needs to DIE in your life?
3. **Are you SHARING how others can be FORGIVEN?** Don't you think that serving Jesus and following Him means you should be telling others about Him?

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

# Discussion questions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

## Why Die? (John 11–12, Selected Passages)

### 1. Seeing Jesus Clearly

- **Read John 11:55–57.** What were people expecting about Jesus coming to Passover—and why?
- **Read John 12:9–11.** Why did people come to see Jesus—and why did the leaders want Him (and Lazarus) dead?
- **Read John 12:12–13.** What did the crowd believe about Jesus? What were they right about—and what were they missing?

#### **Application:**

Where do people today have a partial or incomplete understanding of who Jesus is? How about you?

### 2. Expectation vs Reality

- **Read Matthew 16:20–23.** Why did Peter resist Jesus' prediction of His death? What does this reveal about his expectations?
- **Read Mark 10:32–34.** How clearly did Jesus explain what was about to happen? Why do you think the disciples still struggled to accept it?

#### **Application:**

Where might your expectations of Jesus conflict with what He actually says in Scripture?

### 3. The Principle of Life Through Death

- **Read John 12:23–24.** What is Jesus teaching through the image of the grain of wheat?
- What happens if the seed never “dies”? What happens if it does?

#### **Application:**

What in your life are you trying to preserve instead of surrender? What might God want to multiply if you let it “die”?

### 4. What Do You Really Love?

- **Read John 12:25–26.** What does Jesus mean by “loving” vs. “hating” your life?
- How does this challenge the way our culture defines success and fulfillment?

#### **Application:**

What currently has first priority in your life? What would it look like to put Jesus there instead?

### 5. Understanding the Cross

- **Read John 12:32–34.** Why were the people confused about Jesus being “lifted up”?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:24–25.** According to this passage, what was Jesus accomplishing on the cross?

#### **Application:**

How does understanding that Jesus bore YOUR sin personally change your view of the cross?

### 6. Living It Out

- “Everyone wants the fruit, but nobody wants the death.” Where do you see this play out in your life?
- What is one specific area where you need to “die to self” this week?
- Who is one person you can share the message of forgiveness with—and how will you do it?
- Which of these three do you need most right now:
  1. To be **forgiven**
  2. To start living forgiven
  3. To start sharing forgiveness
- What is your next step—and when will you take it?