



Summary

As we delve into John 12, we're invited to witness the profound significance of Jesus' final week before the crucifixion. This passage illuminates the stark contrast between extravagant worship and selfish motives, embodied in Mary's sacrificial act of anointing Jesus and Judas' hypocritical objection. We're challenged to examine our own hearts - are we pouring out our lives in worship, or are we holding back, focused on our own gain? The story reminds us that true devotion often appears wasteful to the world, but is precious in God's sight. As we reflect on Mary's example, let's consider how we can offer our own 'expensive perfume' to Jesus, giving Him our best in acts of love and service that may seem extravagant to others.



Points

Title: Jesus: The Perfect Passover Lamb

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, focusing on His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the symbolism of the Passover lamb. It emphasizes that Jesus was in control of the events leading to His death, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies and revealing Himself as the true Messiah. The sermon highlights the contrast between Mary's extravagant worship and Judas' betrayal, while also discussing the importance of recognizing Jesus as the only possible Messiah based on biblical prophecy and historical timing.

Key Points:

- Jesus was in control of the events leading to His crucifixion, not the Sanhedrin
- The timing of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem fulfilled Daniel's prophecy
- Mary's act of worship with expensive perfume demonstrated her understanding of Jesus' identity and mission
- The raising of Lazarus served as a powerful sign that drew people to Jesus
- Jesus fulfilled the role of the Passover lamb, offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice
- The importance of understanding Old Testament prophecies to recognize Jesus as the Messiah
- The contrast between those who accepted Jesus and those who rejected Him

Scripture Reference:

- John 12:1-19
- Exodus 12:1-14 (Passover instructions)
- Daniel 9:25-26 (Prophecy of the Messiah's coming)
- Zechariah 9:9 (Prophecy of the Messiah entering Jerusalem on a donkey)

Stories:

- The account of Mary anointing Jesus' feet with expensive perfume
- The raising of Lazarus from the dead
- Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey



Scripture

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, listed in standard notation:

1. John 12:1-19 (Main passage being studied)
2. John 11:53-54
3. Daniel 9:25-26
4. Zechariah 9:9
5. John 10:35
6. John 1:29
7. Exodus 12:1-14
8. Psalm 118:25-26
9. Isaiah 53 (general reference)
10. Psalm 22 (general reference)
11. Matthew 26:3-5
12. Luke 22 (general reference to disciples discussing who is greatest)
13. Luke 10 (reference to Mary sitting at Jesus' feet)
14. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16
15. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
16. Acts 23:8
17. Leviticus 23 (general reference to Levitical feasts)
18. Nehemiah 2:7-8
19. Matthew 11:28 (alluded to in the closing invitation)

Additional relevant verses that align with the main themes discussed:

1. John 1:1-14 (Jesus as the Word and Light)
2. Romans 5:8 (Christ died for us while we were still sinners)
3. 1 Corinthians 5:7 (Christ our Passover lamb)
4. Hebrews 9:22 (Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness)
5. John 3:16 (God's love and salvation through belief in Jesus)
6. Romans 10:9-10 (Confession and belief for salvation)
7. Ephesians 2:8-9 (Salvation by grace through faith)



Quotes

Jesus would force their hand because he, not they, was in control of these events.

Mary's heart is focused on worshiping Jesus evidently, extravagantly. Judas' heart is focused on what's best for me. What can I gain from this?

It is a shameful thing for any follower of Christ to be put to public scorn by other followers of Christ over their extravagance in worshiping Jesus.

Today, the day that Jesus rides into Jerusalem is April the 6th, 32 AD, as meticulously calculated by Sir Robert Anderson in his book, The Coming Prince.

Jesus is the Christ and there can be no other.

God does these works that we may report them to draw other people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.



Discussion Questions

How does Mary's extravagant act of worship challenge our own approach to honoring Jesus, and what might it look like to worship Him 'extravagantly' in our daily lives?

In what ways do we sometimes resemble the disciples who complained about Mary's offering, and how can we cultivate a heart that celebrates others' expressions of devotion to Christ?

How does Jesus' deliberate fulfillment of prophecy in His triumphal entry strengthen our faith in the reliability of Scripture, and what implications does this have for our trust in God's promises?

Considering the contrast between those excited by Jesus' arrival and those incited to prove He couldn't be the Messiah, how do we guard against hardening our hearts to God's truth?

How does understanding Jesus as the ultimate Passover Lamb deepen our appreciation for His sacrifice, and how should this impact our daily walk with Him?

In light of the precise fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy regarding the Messiah's arrival, how does this bolster our confidence in Jesus as the only possible Messiah, and how might we share this with others?

How do the actions of the religious leaders in plotting against Jesus and Lazarus parallel ways in which truth is suppressed or silenced in our world today?

Reflecting on Jesus' control over the events leading to His crucifixion, how does this sovereignty comfort us in our own trials and challenges?

How does the concept of being 'born into' God's family through faith in Christ differ from cultural or religious notions of joining a group, and what implications does this have for evangelism?

In what ways might we, like the disciples, fail to fully understand the significance of Jesus' actions in the moment, and how can we cultivate a more spiritually perceptive heart?



Small Group Guide: Jesus' Triumphal Entry and Control Over His Destiny

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus was in full control of the events leading to His crucifixion.
2. Mary's act of worship demonstrated extravagant love and understanding of Jesus' mission.
3. The triumphal entry fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.
4. Jesus is the only one who can be the Messiah based on biblical prophecies and timing.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus, not the religious leaders, was in control of the events leading to His crucifixion. How does this change your perspective on Jesus' sacrifice?
2. Reflect on Mary's act of worship in anointing Jesus. What can we learn from her example about extravagant worship?
3. How does understanding Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus strengthen our faith?
4. The sermon mentions that some Jewish people are still waiting for the Messiah. How can we sensitively share the truth about Jesus with those who don't recognize Him as the Messiah?
5. Discuss the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem on the exact day prophesied in Daniel 9. How does this precision impact your view of God's sovereignty?
6. The pastor mentioned that the Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35). How does this truth apply to our daily lives and decision-making?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week studying one Old Testament prophecy about Jesus and its New Testament fulfillment. Share your insights with the group next time.
2. Reflect on ways you can worship Jesus more extravagantly in your daily life. Choose one action to implement this week.



3. Pray for opportunities to share the truth about Jesus as the Messiah with someone who doesn't yet believe in Him.
4. Memorize John 1:29: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Meditate on its meaning throughout the week.
5. Consider areas in your life where you struggle to trust God's control. Surrender these to Him in prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His perfect plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Ask for wisdom to apply the truths from this sermon to your daily life and for opportunities to share the gospel with others.

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Daily Devotional

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: The Extravagant Love of God

Reading: John 12:1-8

Devotional: Mary's act of pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet was an extravagant display of love and worship. This mirrors God's extravagant love for us, demonstrated through Jesus' sacrifice. Today, reflect on how you can respond to God's love with wholehearted devotion. Are there areas of your life you're holding back from God? Consider what it means to offer your whole self as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). Pray for a heart that loves God extravagantly, without reservation.

Day 2: Recognizing the Messiah

Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10, John 12:12-19

Devotional: Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem fulfilled ancient prophecies about the Messiah. Yet many still failed to recognize Him. Sometimes we too can miss God's work in our lives because it doesn't match our expectations. Ask God to open your eyes to see Him at work, even in unexpected ways. Reflect on times when God has surprised you or worked differently than you anticipated. Thank Him for His wisdom that surpasses our understanding.

Day 3: The Lamb of God

Reading: Exodus 12:1-14, John 1:29-34

Devotional: The Passover lamb foreshadowed Jesus, the ultimate Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Meditate on the magnitude of what Jesus accomplished through His sacrifice. How does knowing you're forgiven and redeemed impact your daily life? Take time to confess any sins weighing on your conscience, receiving God's forgiveness afresh. Express your gratitude for Christ's redemptive work on your behalf.

Day 4: God's Perfect Timing

Reading: Daniel 9:24-27, Galatians 4:4-5

Devotional: God's plan of salvation unfolded according to His perfect timing, down to the very day of Jesus' triumphal entry. This reminds us that God is sovereign over history and our individual lives. Are there areas where you're struggling to trust God's timing? Bring these before Him in prayer. Reflect on past experiences where you've seen God's perfect timing at work. Allow these memories to strengthen your faith as you face current uncertainties.

Day 5: Bearing Witness to Christ

Reading: John 12:17-18, Acts 1:8

Devotional: Those who witnessed Lazarus' resurrection eagerly shared the news, drawing others to Jesus. We too are called to bear witness to what Christ has done in our lives. Take some time to write down specific ways you've experienced God's goodness and power. Ask the Holy Spirit to give



you opportunities to share your testimony with others. Pray for courage to speak boldly about Jesus, and for open hearts in those who hear.

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