

One Week Left - What Would You Do with Seven Days?

Episode 1 - John 12 — *The Anointing of Jesus*

- I. Bethany - Chapter 12 begins the last week of Jesus' life, his clear shift to his eternal role as savior of the world through his death and resurrection. He knew there was only one week left. In the last chapter, he went to visit his friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha - resurrecting Lazarus from the dead. He stays with them for a few days.
 - A. Who are the friends that you long to spend time with?
 - 1. What makes their presence so important to your well being?
 - 2. What are ways that you nourish each other's souls?
 - B. Reading Luke 10: 38-42, what personality traits do Mary and Martha possess?
 - 1. How do those same traits bear out in John's story in Chapter 12?
 - 2. How are you like Martha (very busy doing work that you think Jesus would approve)?
 - 3. How are you like Mary (seemingly willing to waste time in spiritual awareness of God)?
 - 4. How might you find a better balance?
 - B. Justifying the Extravagance
 - 1. Why do you think Mary poured out \$55,000 of perfume on Jesus' head?
 - 2. Could the perfume been leftover, not quite placed on the dead body of Lazarus, who is no longer dead?
 - 3. What do you make of the off-hand comments about Judas and his motives?
- II. Triumphal Entry
 - A. Theological Roots of Jesus Riding a Donkey into Jerusalem
 - 1. Read I Kings 1: 32-35. In this passage, David sends his own mule to retrieve his son Solomon to be anointed King to replace him. Hence, the "Son of David" who is anointed to be King rides not a war horse but a beast of burden.
 - 2. II Samuel 15: 30 to 16:2 tells the story of David returning to Jerusalem after thwarting the rebellion by his son Absalom, returning victorious us with humility and sorrow.

3. Read Zechariah 9:8-11. In this passage, Zechariah looks forward to the day when the Messiah (anointed one) will ride into Jerusalem and once again sit on David's throne.

III. Jesus Takes on the Role of Messiah

- A. Why do you think Jesus chose, at this moment, to take on the the role of Messiah, a role that he had downplayed before?
- B. In John 12: 27-33, we get a public glimpse of the dialogue and connection between the Father and the Son. The crowd is confused as to who is talking to him. How have you experienced God in unforgettable, almost tangible ways? How did that reassure you in your journey?

III. If there was only one week left in your life....

- A. What financial extravagance would be justifiable? For Jesus, it was being anointed with perfume. What would it be for you?
- B. Who would you go and and visit, just to be with them? For Jesus it was Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. Who would you visit?
- C. What risk would you be willing to take, to do what was critically important even though it would cause dissension. For Jesus, it was riding a donkey to proclaim himself Messiah. What would it be for you?
- D. What conversations would you have with God? For Jesus in John 12: 27-33, the conversations were a struggle for clarity and confirmation of his purpose. What would it be for you?