

## The Word Made Flesh:

### The Triumphal Entry and the Judgement of the World

John 12:9-50

## I. The Triumphal Entry (John 12:9–19)

### Why the Crowd Came

- Many came because they had heard about Lazarus being raised from the dead.
- Their belief was rooted in the miracle, not yet in a full understanding of Jesus' mission.
- Lazarus himself became living evidence, which is why the chief priests even plotted to kill him.

### Key Elements of the Moment

#### The Crowd

- Drawn by signs and spectacle.
- Expecting political deliverance and national restoration.

#### Palm Branches

- A symbol of victory and Jewish nationalism.
- Associated with celebrations like the Maccabean revolt, when Israel was freed from Seleucid rule.
- The people were welcoming Jesus like a conquering king.

#### “Hosanna”

- Not simply praise, but a plea: “Save now, we beg You.”
- Quoted from Psalm 118:25–26, part of the Passover liturgy.

#### The Donkey

- Fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9.
- A king riding a donkey signified peace, not war.
- Jesus comes humbly, not as the military Messiah they expected.

### **The Misunderstanding**

- The crowd wanted rescue from Rome.
  - Jesus came to rescue from sin.
  - When He did not meet their expectations, celebration would later turn to rejection.
- 

## **II. Following Jesus Means Dying (John 12:20–26)**

### **The Arrival of the Greeks**

- Signals the widening scope of Jesus' mission to the nations.
- Marks a turning point. The hour of glorification has come.

### **The Seed Principle**

- “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone.”
- No death, no fruit.
- Life comes through surrender.

### **True Discipleship**

- Following Jesus is not merely agreeing with His teachings.
  - It means walking where He walks:
    - Serving without recognition.
    - Sharing in suffering.
    - Dying to self-will.
  - Discipleship is participation, not observation.
- 

## **III. The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up (John 12:27–36)**

### **Jesus' Troubled Soul**

- He does not avoid the cross because this is His purpose.
- The cross is not a tragic interruption. It is the mission itself.

### **The Father's Voice**

- Some hear thunder, others think an angel spoke.
- Everyone hears something, but not everyone understands.
- Revelation does not guarantee recognition.

### **The Crowd's Crisis**

- They expected a Messiah who would remain forever.
- They cannot reconcile that expectation with a suffering Savior.
- Their belief begins to unravel.



## A Warning

- Misunderstanding God’s ways can destabilize faith just as much as sin.
  - Right theology anchors us when God acts in unexpected ways.
- 

## IV. Jesus Came to Save the World (John 12:44–50)

### To Believe in Jesus Is to Believe the Father

- Jesus speaks with the authority of the One who sent Him.
- He comes as light so that people would not remain in darkness.

### Salvation and Judgment Are Intertwined

- Jesus did not come primarily to condemn, but to save.
- Yet His coming forces a verdict.
- The Greek word *krisis* means decision, judgment, or judicial sentence.

By declaring that the world needs salvation, the world is simultaneously exposed as lost.

### The Cross Brings the Final Verdict Into History

- What was expected at the end of the age is pulled into the middle of history.
  - This is inaugurated judgment.
  - Decisive, though not yet fully consummated.
- 

## V. What the Cross Judges

### 1. The World

- “World” in John refers to the organized system of rebellion against God.
- At the cross:
  - Religious leaders reject their Messiah.
  - Rome executes the Son of God.
  - The crowd chooses darkness.
- The cross exposes the true condition of humanity.

### 2. Sin

- Sin is not ignored. It is condemned.
- God judges sin in Christ (Romans 8:3).
- The judgment is both substitutionary and revelatory.

### 3. Satan

- Jesus declares that “the ruler of this world” is cast out.



- The cross is Satan's decisive defeat (Colossians 2:13–15).
- His accusations lose their prosecuting authority.

The blow is decisive now. The final removal comes later.

---

## VI. What This Means Today

### Satan's Authority Is Limited

- The gospel spreading to all nations is evidence that his dominion has been broken.

### The Accuser Has Lost His Case

- Satan still tempts and deceives, but he cannot successfully condemn God's people (Romans 8:33–34).

### The Great Irony

- The world believed it was judging Jesus.
  - In reality, the cross was God's judgment on the world and the defeat of its ruler.
- 

## Big Idea

The cross is both salvation and judgment.

It is the moment where God saves all who believe, exposes the rebellion of the world, condemns sin, and dethrones Satan.

