

John 12:20-50 – 12 July 2026

“We Would See Jesus”

Introduction

*In chapter 12, Jesus has ridden into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday- the Triumphal Entry

*He’s being examined, as the Passover Lamb was supposed to be, for 4 days – to be found blameless

*Most of His examination is recorded in Synoptics

*John instead focuses on Jesus’ final words & actions before the Passover Meal w/ the disciples

*Now we have Jesus’ final public speech to the crowd

*Like you would expect, Jesus brings every word back to the main thing – and this is faith – to believe

*It’s of utmost important that we have ***genuine, saving, Biblical*** faith

Today we see 4 ways to know if you have genuine, saving, Biblical faith

#1 –The challenge of faith: You’re willing to pay a heavy price (12:20-26)

Read 12:20

1. There have always been non-Jews that have come to saving faith in the God of Israel
 - a. Mixed multitude out of Egypt (Moses)
 - b. The Magi came from Babylon to worship
 - c. On Pentecost - people from 15 regions
2. These were most likely from the Decapolis
 - a. 10 Greek-cultured cities just east of Galilee
 - b. Jesus healed demoniac of Gadara (Mark 5)
 - c. Jesus healed a deaf man there (Mark 7)
 - d. Jesus fed the 4,000 here (Mark 8)

Read 12:21

1. They most likely came to Philip b/c of a familiarity with him
 - a. Philip is a Greek name – maybe parents were influenced by Hellenistic culture
 - b. Bethsaida borders the region of Decapolis

2. Notice the ask from the Greek worshippers
 - a. “We want to see Jesus”
3. What they *weren’t* doing
 - a. Wanting to see the Temple
 - b. Wanting to see the “stained-glass windows”
 - c. Wanting to tell others our opinions
 - d. Wanting to get fed or filled
4. This is how to be a worshipper & come to church – We want to see Jesus

Read 12:22-23

1. ‘To be glorified’ – *to be recognized as weighty and worthy of praise & exaltation*
 - a. That His hour had not yet come, previously moved Him to remove from harm – not now
 - b. Going to the cross to suffer & die will demonstrate His worth and value

Read 12:24-26

1. Using the analogy of a piece of wheat, Jesus says that His intension is to bring forth fruit

- a. Piece of wheat is singular, but its seed can produce much more, but it has to die to do it
- 2. What is the “much fruit”?
 - a. The seed that’s planted produced many seeds & they can produce many more seeds
 - b. This is an analogous picture of eternal life for the seed
- 3. Now Jesus is setting the pattern for us to follow
 - a. If we love our life, wanting to keep it; that’s like never dying or planting our life’s seed in the ground
 - b. If we’re willing to give up our life; that’s like dying to self & planting our life’s seed to die but also to be resurrected into eternal life
- 4. The challenge is this; if you say you serve Jesus, you’ll imitate His words & deeds
 - a. We must be willing to die to this life (Read Luke 9:23-26)
 - b. This imitating of Jesus will be honored by God

#2 –The place of faith: You’re relying on Jesus’ work on the cross (12:27-36)

Read 12:27-28a

1. Jesus did many things in His time on earth
 - a. Taught about great living & of eternal life
 - b. He did miracles and helped others
 - c. He enjoyed festival, friends & family
 - d. But ***none of these things*** could be lasting or have any meaning without the cross
 - i. He paved the way for resurrected life!
2. He came to die; to give His life as a ransom
 - a. He didn’t come to make sad people happy
 - b. He didn’t come to make poor people rich
 - c. He didn’t come to give the lonely company
 - d. ***He came to make dead people live!***

Read 12:28b-30

1. To hear from God is a great show of God’s personal care for those in distress doing His will
 - a. In Acts 18, Paul’s in Corinth & distressed; God speaks to him at night to encourage him

b. Today, God does this thru His Word & His Spirit (Read John 14:26)

2. Just like at Paul's conversion in Acts 9, some understood the voice was of God & some didn't
- a. Father's voice came to give evidence that some are coming to God in faith & some aren't

Read 12:31-33

1. Satan, the ruler of this world, is cast out of power & rule over it
- a. He gained control in Eden (Gen 3)
- b. He showed his control at Temptation of Jesus (Luke 4)
2. ***Lifting Jesus up on the cross breaks Satan's power***
- a. Jesus gave this example & explained what we must do about it (Read John 3:14-15)
- b. Now there's a choice whom they will serve
- c. Read Rom 6:16-18

Read 12:34-36

1. Jesus makes it clear that they have not yet believed in Him for salvation
 - a. They're still resistant to receive His words
2. They're asking, 'how can You die if Christ is supposed to live forever'
 - a. He literally just answered that in vss 24-26
3. While they're confused theologically; He's focused on getting them to be born again into life
 - a. How straightforward is it?
 - b. **Believe & you become** – Believe in Christ's work on the cross & you become God's children

#3 –The leap of faith: You've moved from seeing evidence to willing to live it (12:37-43)

Read 12:37-41

1. This is Wednesday – Jesus has been fielding questions for 3 days to prove His spotlessness
2. They've gained excellent reasons to **take the last leap of faith** & yet illogically refuse to believe

3. Now John quotes 2 places from Isaiah to demonstrate the illogical nature of their unbelief
 - a. Vs 38 is from Isa 53:1
 - i. This begs for us to read *all of* Isa 53!
 - ii. Shows His death to justify & resurrect many
 - b. Vs 40 is from Isa 6:9-10
 - i. This blinding is a hardening of the position that they had already chosen
 - ii. Vs 42 makes it clear that some came to faith

Read 12:42-43

1. Jesus said, ‘how hard is it for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God’
 - a. It’s hard to give up man’s praise once you have it
2. I love it when people leave positions of power to follow Jesus
 - a. Matthew, left the tax money & came
 - b. A great number of priests believed after Pentecost (Acts 6:7)

3. Do we love God's glory greater than the world's power?
 - a. Would you give up something of the world to honor God?
4. Do we love God's glory greater than self-glory?
 - a. Would you give up a comfort or vice to honor God?

#4 –The substance of faith: You want to get the details right (12:44-50)

Read 12:44-45

1. This is the very reason they want to kill Him
b/c Jesus makes Himself equal with God
2. So we speak of *the identity of Jesus*

Read 12:46

1. So now we speak of *His mission*; to bring light to a dark world
2. We need to accept both as true
 - a. *We are* completely *dark* – without hope
 - b. *Jesus is the light* – the only way to hope

Read 12:47-48

1. So now we speak of *our need to respond*
2. Read John 3:17-19
3. Notice a non-response is to continue in darkness

Read 12:49-50

1. This *has always been the plan* of the Father
 - a. His plan has always been to bring eternal life
2. Jesus has always been our perfect role-model of submission to the Father's will & good plan
 - a. Let's follow Jesus' example

Conclusion

What aspect of faith do you need to examine today?

1. Challenge of faith: It's a heavy price
2. Place of faith: Jesus' work on the cross
3. Leap of faith: Move from evidence to living it
4. Substance of faith: What to believe