

# DO YOU SEE? CAN YOU HEAR? DO YOU BELIEVE?

## PART 5 - JOHN 12

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### Congregational Reading

John 12:12-19 (NKJV)

The Triumphal Entry

(Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40)

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

"Hosanna!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

The King of Israel!"

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion;

Behold, your King is coming,

Sitting on a donkey's colt."

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. 18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. 19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"

### Introduction

There is so much happening in John Chapter 12, it's difficult to bring all of the events following the Bethany resurrection of Lazarus into a 30

minute sermon. But verses 12-19 bring us to the glorious Triumphant Entry of Jesus into the streets of Jerusalem. He gives His disciples specific instructions to locate a donkey and its colt and to relay would be the perfect message to the owner of the animals - "the Master hath need of them" and the Lord Jesus (Creator and Word made flesh) knew just what to say to speak to the human heart. And the owner released the animals to the disciples and Jesus rode in on the back of the donkey with its colt in tow. Remembering that Jesus was recently in Bethany at the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, and that a miracle and an anointing took place there. Where Lazarus was raised from death, and where Jesus would be anointed for His own death.

Jesus now meets an excited crowd that heard of Lazarus resurrection by Jesus and believed on Him and were enthralled with Him. Even the Pharisees could not deny the miracle that had been done in Bethany and actually sought to kill Lazarus to kill the hype around the miracle. But they were unsuccessful. And at the height of this public display of celebration for Jesus, He understood that the hearts of the people were appreciative now but soon will betray Him for a convenient substitute. A true savior would be traded for criminal.

He knew that His true glorification would not come because He was cheered and lauded, but it would come when He was sacrificed and mourned. He would gather more souls through His dying and resurrection than His present following.

Jesus was not even after His own glorification. He prioritized the glorification of The Father.

John 12:27-28 (NKJV)

Jesus Predicts His Death on the Cross

27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

- Jesus here shows us how to focus in on the mission that we've received from God and not to get carried away with the hype from a following or even the cheers of others for something we've done or accomplished.
  - Receive it but recognize that it can be easily short-lived if this same crowd is given the right ultimatum to turn on you.

### **You've Seen, You've Heard but Do You Really Believe?**

And STILL while many people saw the miraculous signs, and many were cheering Hosanna ("come and save us!"), there were still many that

doubted. It also teaches us that as many fans as you may have, there will always be the skeptics.

John 12:37-41 (NKJV)

Who Has Believed Our Report?

37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

“Lord, who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”

39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,

Lest they should see with their eyes,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,

So that I should heal them.”

41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

It is almost as if Isaiah saw through the annals of time that Jesus would be seen, heard but yet rejected!

John 1:10-12 (NKJV)

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

It is the “rejection” of Jesus that produces the blindness, deafness and the hardening of hearts. Like Pharaoh refused to hear “let my people go” there were many who would refuse to receive salvation from the Deliverer Jesus Himself.

- Rejection is what produces spiritual blindness...not a lack of evidence.
- When asked the question “Do you see” if your answer is “YES” but you reject Jesus, you don’t really believe.
- Or when asked “Can you hear?” If your answer is “YES I can hear” but you reject what He said, you don’t really believe.
- What we truly believe reveals whether or not we can truly see and hear at all. You can’t claim to be spiritually minded or godly and reject Jesus.
  - You can **see**... and still reject
  - You can **hear**... and still refuse
  - You can be **around Jesus**... and still not believe

Do You See, Can You Hear, Do You Believe?

## **You Can't Unsee and Unhear the Light!**

Verses 42-43 John exposes that there were some quiet believers, silent watchers, people who really believed who Jesus was, but their belief in Him was dwarfed by fear of excommunication from the synagogue and the opinions of men.

John 12:42-43 (NKJV)

42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

- Jesus then calls out the quiet believers, the silent watchers and hidden disciples.
  - They believed internally, but refused to identify publicly.

John 12:44-50 (NKJV)

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. 46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

Notice what Jesus says here: He said "if you reject me, I'm not judging you." "But The Word you reject now... will be the Word that judges you later."

## **Close**

As I reflect on the gravity of John's account of this momentous occasion, I have a deep sense of angst for the crowds that cheered but didn't really believe.

And I wonder if today...we still have people who:

- shout for Jesus...but reject His teachings
- celebrate Christianity...but resist obedience

- want His benefits...but not His authority
- shout "Hosanna"...when it's convenient
- but would distance themselves...when it costs something

I also wonder today if we have thousands who shout for Jesus and for Christianity but yet they:

- Reject the true Gospel because it is politically inconvenient
- Reject the real Jesus because He would forgive the ones we scorn, or He would through compassion turn towards the ones we turn away from
- Shout Hosanna "Come save us" when they wanted to be attached to His movement but would then yell "Crucify Him" "Get Him away from us" when it came to being identified with His true identity
- **They were impressed with what He did...but never surrendered to who He is.**

Because once you see who Jesus really is, and that He really came for you, then you have to be concerned with what He really wants for you and what that's going to require you to do.

You've seen what he can do. You've heard the Words of life from Jesus. Now will you believe and follow Him?