

John 12:9-19

We saw the last few weeks, the resurrection of Lazarus, followed by the anointing at Bethany. We're now entering the final week of Jesus' ministry, and yet we have half the book of John to go. This is because John will give plenty of attention to the last week of the ministry of Jesus. This last week of Jesus' ministry is the week before Passover. (One of the three major pilgrimage feasts) Josephus says there were, at some point, up to 2.5 million people in Jerusalem for Passover.

Jerusalem was very small. Many residents would receive travelers as guests (strangers, Abraham), and many would camp out in the streets, the Mount of Olives, and Bethany. This is where Jesus would stay when He came to Jerusalem. Many came to the feast and heard that Jesus was there and wanted to see Him. He was already popular, but now the resurrection of Lazarus amplified that popularity.

John 12:9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. **10** But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, **11** because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

The Triumphal Entry

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!"

- The people who came to the festival were Jews who had come to celebrate Passover.
- They came to see Jesus, but they also wanted to see Lazarus. Many believed in Jesus because of Lazarus
 - **Many believed in Jesus because of Lazarus**, but we never hear Lazarus say one word, teach, or preach.
 - He got sick, died, was buried, came out when Jesus called him, was unwrapped from his grave clothing, and now he's sitting at the table in Simon's house
 - The greatest preaching we can preach is our daily testimony. Some of us have the opportunity to preach in a setting like this, which is a huge privilege, yet the greatest impact is in our daily actions with those who surround us. How we treat people, how we love people, our kindness, our obedience, how we react under difficult circumstances, and our devotion to Christ.
- For this reason, the chief priests also wanted to kill Lazarus (guilty by association)
 - Some point out that this is the reason the Lazarus story is not in the other Gospels
 - Some also suggest that the story of Mary anointing the feet of Jesus is the same in all 4 gospels, leaving out who she really was in 3 Gospels (Jesus forced them to write about her "wherever this gospel is preached, what she has done will also be told")
- Now, in the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus will show himself as the promised Messiah to the whole nation of Israel.

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- Usually, Jesus would tell people not to say anything, not to tell anyone, but this time, He would show Himself as the king of Israel

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- The date was the 10th day of the month of Nisan, or April 6th, 32 AD. This is important for 2 reasons
 1. This was a prophecy that was written in **Daniel 9:25**: “Know therefore and understand, *That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;*”
 - That translates to 483 years.
 - On March 14th, 445 BC, the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus
 - The exact year to the day would be April 6th, 32 AD
 2. This was the day the families would choose the lamb to be slaughtered for the passover dinner
 - God the Father was presenting His passover Lamb
- They took branches and went out to meet him, receiving Him as a deliverer
- This was from the Maccabean revolt, 250 years before, when the Syrian stronghold was driven out of Jerusalem, and the people took palm branches to celebrate that independence
 - This independence from the Maccabean revolt was celebrated yearly (Feast of Dedication, Hanukkah)
- They believed that Jesus would do the same and started shouting “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ The King of Israel!” Which means save us now
 - They would be disappointed because Jesus was not there to start a political revolution. He was there to save us from the consequences of sin, to pay the ransom for our sins, to give His life that we may live and be reconciled to God the Father
 - Worth mentioning: this same group of people who were shouting Hosanna are the very same group of people who, 5 days later, would shout Crucify Him
- He sat on a donkey (king, conquer, peace, Revelation 19, horse)
- Fulfilling **Zachariah 9:9** “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

One of my favorite verses **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.*

- They didn’t understand, I’m so glad, because many times I don’t understand
- What powerful moments are when you don’t understand something, but then you realize that God is in control, that God had it all planned out, that God was with you the whole time.
- Some of us now may not understand, **but when Jesus was glorified, then...**
- I believe the more Jesus becomes glorified in your life, the more you’ll get His Word, His truth. It’ll make sense to you. You’ve got the right heart. You’re growing in your faith. You’re

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growing in a relationship with God. He's more and more glorified, and it's like, ah, enlightenment is coming, I'm getting it.

- The disciples on the boat (Jesus, walking, water, Peter recognises), Mary and Martha, Joseph
- The other Gospels tell us a bit more from this passage. The Pharisees came and told Jesus to tell the people to be quiet, **Luke 19:39** And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." 40 But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."
 - The Lord will receive praise if we don't praise Him; the very chairs in this place will shout Hallelujah
 - The reason this had to happen was that it was written because God had said it
 - You know why the devil can't curse you because God has blessed you.....

Luke 19:41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, **42** saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. **43** For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, **44** and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

- This is called the triumphal entry to Jerusalem, but it could be called the weeping entry into Jerusalem
- I wonder if, when Jesus sees this church, it is a triumph or grief?
- Do we see the things that make for our peace, or are they hidden
- Open our eyes, Lord
- Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because they didn't know that that day was a day of visitation
- Today is the day of visitation
- The Lord is here, know this, the Lord is here

19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"