

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
Belief Leads To Action
John 12
Week 18 May 24, 2026
Pastor Mike Popovich

It is six days before the Passover.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

John 12:1-2 ESV

Jesus evokes strong reactions. You are either for Him or against Him.

MARY ANOINTS JESUS

Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:3 ESV

One of the disciples rebukes Mary for doing this

Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

John 12:7-8 ESV

Mary wanted to worship Jesus in this way and Jesus accepted that from her.

JUDAS WANTED THE OIL SOLD

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

John 12:4-5 ESV

Judas did not see ministry born out of love.
He only saw the potential for power and profit.

THE PEOPLE WANTED A KING

The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

John 12:12-13 ESV

This is not the first time they wanted to make Him King.

So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

John 12:19 ESV

Jesus would give them a freedom that lasts for eternity.

THE TIME HAS COME

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." John 12:27-28 ESV

God speaking is meant to validate Jesus' ministry and give strength to His disciples.

Salvation is through Jesus and to deny Him and His word is to reject salvation and to enter eternity without God and His creation.

So Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you.

John 12:35 ESV

Believing in Jesus is to accept what He has told us about Himself and God.