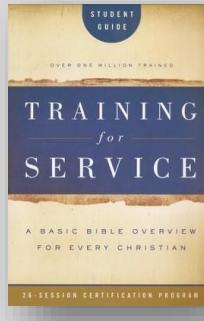


John 12 – Coming to the End of Ministry

Since it has been a “minute” since we have studied John, let’s review the order of events in the gospel messages:

- ...Period of Preparation
- ...Period of Obscurity
- ...Period of Popularity
- ...Period of Opposition
- ...Period of Persecution
- ...Period of Passion
- ...Period of Resurrection



After John 11 (when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead) – He pictured/prefigured/foreshadowed His signature action in ministry. It was the raising of the dead that would change the status of our lives forever. Here, they only understood that He had power over death – which is the most formidable enemy. To Jesus, dead was still not dead. There was no greater weapon on earth than to take people’s lives and HE JUST DEMONSTRATED VICTORY OVER THAT WEAPON. SO – resurrection is a greater weapon than death!!! After this pivotal event, chapter 12 contains all the reactions to Christ and His response to the culture. Let’s look at it.

John 12 (NKJV) The Anointing at Bethany

12:1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. **2** There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. **3** Then Mary took a pound of **very costly oil** of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, **5** “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” **6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

7 But Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. **8** For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.”

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

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.

Political (power) agenda again – Jesus raising Lazarus was getting in the way of their influence. Are we careful of how much attention we place on our own influence? Is your life about HIM?

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!"

Cried out to Him in worship “save us we pray – save us now!” This was an expression of dependency on Him to save them from their oppressors. Perhaps this is why they would later turn on him – when He demonstrated what they thought was weakness.

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

The King of Israel!"

They even called Him King! Do you go back on your confession when times get seemingly tough?

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."

Zechariah 9:9 - 500 years before this actually happened in John 12 (and it came to pass). We should rejoice at prophecy because it teaches us to be patient - **Habakkuk 2:3: "For the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay".**

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.

God is giving us clues – YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR WORD!

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. **His miracles were a kind of ministry marketing**

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

Political (power) agenda again – they had an agenda AND IT WAS NOT GOING THE WAY THEY EXPECTED. Same will happen now!!!

The Fruitful Grain of Wheat

²⁰ Now there were certain **Greeks** among those who came up to worship at the feast. ²¹ Then they came to Philip, who was from **Bethsaida of Galilee**, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **Where Jesus' ministry began.**

²² **Philip** came and **told Andrew**, and in turn **Andrew** and **Philip told Jesus**.

Look how the word is getting around.

²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

This is a significant feature of the book of John. We are already at the point in the ministry of Jesus (in John) where Jesus is preparing to go to the cross – BUT we have 21 chapters in John. Chapters 13-17 contain the material for Jesus' last night with the disciples and farewell messages(discourse). Chapters 18-21 then turn directly to His passion, resurrection and post resurrection which finishes His story.

²⁴ **Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.** ²⁵ He who loves **his life** will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for **eternal life.** ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

SEED

Seedtime-Harvest theme. This is the real focus of Genesis 8:22.

HARVEST

It pays to serve the Master.

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.**" **Jesus fulfilled His purpose. Is that the FOCUS of our lives? What else are we really living for?**

Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again." **Heaven was involved the entire time.**

²⁹ Therefore **the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered.** Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

³⁰ **Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.** ³¹ **Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.** **Recall – demons are cast out!**

³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself." ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die. **Lifted Up on the Cross! – Consider: The cross was a kind of "exalting" and ascension.**

³⁴ The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

Illumination. Also opposite of darkness.

³⁵ **Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.** ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may **become sons of light.**" These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

Learning more about Jesus' identity

What do people do without Christ? They are walking in darkness. What should we do who have Christ then?

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:

Many will not believe. Consider – you believe and you have never seen Jesus. They saw Him.

QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE THE WHOLE STORY?

"Lord, who has believed our report?"

And to whom has the **arm** of the Lord been revealed?"

Strength in salvation

Isaiah 53:1

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." **Romans 10:10** - For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

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

→ **Healing is a salvation issue! Not just a bodily condition.**

Another way of saying – "who got the revelation?" HAS THIS BEEN REVEALED TO YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

Walk in the Light

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.**

→ **That is a lot of people's issue today – "worldly acclaim"**

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out and said, **"He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.** Consider **John 3:16** – "...that He sent His only begotten Son..." (It was God's plan to send Jesus) they believe that.

⁴⁵ And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. Again, equating Himself with God.

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."**

→ **Likewise, we should not speak on our own authority but with what has already been spoken.**

APPLICATION

We have 6 sections in this message. What one thing can you identify that you believe from each of the sections in support of Him:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____