

John 12

- I. 12:1-11 Christ and His Closest Friends
- II. 12:12-36 Christ and the World
- III. 12:37-50 Christ and Unbelievers

Introduction: John 11 told us about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. The chapter ended with the Jewish religious leaders plotting to put Jesus to death.

- I. 12:1-11 Christ and His Closest Friends
 - A. 12:2 Same story in Matthew 26 & Mark 14 in Bethany, home of Simon the Leper, who Jesus apparently healed from his leprosy. Luke 7 records a different story.
 - B. 12:3 *spikenard* herb from the mountains of India, used, like gold, as an investment.
 - C. 12:5 *300 denarii* = about 1 year's earnings for a laborer *denarius* = 1 day's wages
 - D. 12:8 Jesus is more or less quoting Deu 15:11. His thoughts sound like the Bible. As we soak in the Word, our minds will do the same thing. This is what the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2) is all about.
 - E. Four Types of People Who Follow Jesus:
 - i. Mary, the Worshiper Whenever Mary of Bethany is mentioned by name, we see her at Jesus' feet. Here she gives what was probably the most valuable thing she has to honor Him.
 - ii. Martha, the Worker She is still serving, but no longer griping against Mary as she was back in Luke 10.
 - iii. Lazarus, the Witness The most important thing about him is what he is now compared to what he used to be. He was dead and now is alive – and others notice.
 - iv. Judas, the Whiner He is able to criticize even the purest act of devotion. Not every follower of Jesus is truly a worshiper, a worker, or a witness. Some, like Judas, are complete phonies.
- II. 12:12-36 Christ and the World
 - A. 12:13 Quoting Psalm 118:26 – a Messianic reference
 - B. 12:15 John points out this direct fulfillment of prophecy from Zechariah 9:9.
 - C. 12:16 John makes me feel good with this verse. Often it's not until way later that I understand what really happened or what God really did in a given situation.

- D. 12:22 *Andrew* He is mentioned by name 3 times in John's Gospel and in every case he is introducing someone to Jesus. He's a dedicated evangelist. We need more Andrews.
- i. Peter in John 1
 - ii. The boy with the loaves and fishes in John 6
 - iii. Certain Greeks here in John 12

- E. 12:23 *the hour has come* In John 2, 7 & 8 Christ's hour had not yet come. Now it is here: Jesus is referring to His upcoming crucifixion – the time of His death.

This is how Jesus would be glorified. From now until His death Jesus will confirm that His hour has come. See also 13:1, 17:1

- F. 12:26 I like to think of this verse as a restating of the Great Commission. As we “Go into all the world” we are simply following Jesus. He'll always be there ahead of us.

- G. 12:28 *a voice came from heaven* Also at Jesus' baptism (Matt 3:17) and at His transfiguration (Matt 17:5).

- H. 12:32 *lifted up* Jesus is talking about the cross. The Jews must have referred to crucifixion this way, because they know what he means in v.34.

will draw all peoples to Myself Not **universalism** – the belief that all will eventually be saved. We are still in the context of the Greeks wanting to see Jesus while at a Jewish festival. Christ confirms that this salvation is for all people – not Jews alone.

Though the offer of salvation is legitimate to every individual, there is no guarantee that every individual will receive it and be saved, as we will see right now as we end the chapter.

- I. 12:35-36 *believe in the light* = believe in Jesus

John 8:12 (NKJV) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Jesus doesn't let us escape the decision about what we will do with Him.

III. 12:37-50 Christ and Unbelievers

- A. 12:37 *they did not believe* Some people refuse to believe – period.

Application: Don't be discouraged when people don't respond as you share your faith. Most people didn't respond to Jesus either, despite all His miracles, preaching, etc.

- B. 12:38 Isaiah actually predicted this unbelief.

- C. 12:39-40 *they could not believe* Without question this raises one of the most frightening issues to come up as we study through the Bible:

They did not believe ... therefore, they could not believe.

- i. Can this happen to an individual? Can a person so resist Christ as to cause God to harden them in their unbelieving state?

Maybe so. We can't know exactly when, simply because God isn't telling, but the fear of the possibility should certainly motivate us to examine our own relationship with Christ. If you truly follow Jesus you'll never have to worry about whether this can happen to you.

- ii. The verse from Isaiah is mentioned in all four Gospels, Acts and Romans. In all seven contexts it speaks of a judgmental sort of blindness happening to Israel, just as we see here.

*Romans 11:25 (NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness **in part** has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** [The blindness is partial and only until a set time.]*

- iii. The Bible also speaks of a similar judgment which God will bring upon people during the end times period we call the Tribulation:

*2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NKJV) ⁹The coming of the lawless one [Antichrist] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** ¹¹**And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,** ¹²**that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

D. 12:42-43 Some people sort of believe, but just never want to talk about it or act like it. God is not pleased by this even if some people are.

E. 12:46-48 Christ's First and Second Comings:

- i. First Coming: Jesus came to save. Compare 12:47 with 3:17 below

John 3:17 (NKJV) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- ii. Second Coming: To carry out the final judgment according to God's Word – as we see here in John 12:48

Conclusion:

12:50 *His command is everlasting life* No one can ever say God condemned them to hell. If someone does not receive eternal life, it is a result of direct disobedience to His command.

Peter summed it up as follows:

Acts 10:42-43 (NKJV) ⁴²And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."