



John 12-21

Son of God

Sample Lesson #1
and
Leader's Guide Answers

Behold, the King!

Read: John 12; other Scripture references as given.

The first 11 chapters of John's gospel begin with eternity past (cf. John 1:1) and end just prior to Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem—an infinite length of time. This second study of John (chapters 12–21) begins six days before the Passover (John 12:1) and concludes sometime before Christ's ascension into heaven (John 21; Acts 1:3)—a period of less than 50 days.

John 12 divides easily into four sections: (1) Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet (John 12:1–11), (2) Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (John 12:12–19), (3) a small group of Greeks who request a private meeting with Jesus (John 12:20–36), and (4) Jesus' explanation as to why some people believe and others don't.

Before you begin, please ask God to reveal Himself through His Word and to transform you into the image of His Son. May God bless your diligent study of God's Word.

1. Six days before the Passover (probably Friday or Saturday the week before the crucifixion, depending on Roman or Jewish calculation), Jesus and His disciples arrived at Bethany, a small village approximately two miles east of Jerusalem. There He was the honored guest at an evening meal (John 12:1–2). What happened at the meal that triggered the disapproval of one of the disciples (John 12:3–5)?
2. Since the value of the oil Mary used was roughly equal to a common laborer's yearly wages (perhaps \$20,000–\$30,000 in today's dollars), Judas's comment about Mary's "wastefulness" seems justifiable. Why didn't Judas want Mary to use the oil of spikenard (NIV: "pure nard") for her expression of love and adoration of Jesus (John 12:6)?
3. Mary's action of washing Jesus' feet is a beautiful example of uninhibited worship—an expression of adoration that is approved by God, but often condemned by man. What specific things *do you think* Mary did to express her love for Jesus and her unrestrained worship of Him (John 12:3)?
4. According to 2 Samuel 24:18–25 the prophet Gad instructed King David to erect an altar for the people to worship the Lord. David chose an elevated threshing floor that was owned by a man named Araunah (the same location that Abram offered Isaac and the current location of the Islamic Dome of the Rock) who was willing to donate his property for such a worthy purpose.
 - a. What did David say to Araunah about the gift of the property and his (David's) worship of God (2 Samuel 24:24)?
 - b. Mary gave a costly gift (perhaps an inheritance or her dowry), and David said he wouldn't give the Lord anything that didn't cost him something. What do you regularly offer the Lord as an expression of love and gratitude for what He has done for you that costs you something?
5. When the Jewish leaders learned that Jesus was at Bethany, they sought to kill both Him and Lazarus (John 12:9–11). They planned to kill Lazarus because his resurrection from the dead had become a powerful witness that was causing many Jews to place their faith in Christ (John 12:11). Apparently the Jews never considered that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead again.
 - a. If the Jewish leaders hated Jesus and the common people were afraid of the leaders (John 7:13), who joyously welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem (John 12:12–16)?
 - b. What didn't Jesus' disciples understand about His entrance into Jerusalem (John 12:16; Zechariah 9:9)?

6. Some Greeks (non-Jewish, Gentile converts to Judaism) requested an interview with Jesus (John 12:20–22). Likely, they had some questions about their inclusion in the plan of God. According to Jewish law, Gentiles could worship in the temple in Jerusalem, but their access was limited to the Court of the Gentiles. At first Jesus appeared to ignore their request, but His answer provides comfort to all non-Jews about being fully accepted into God’s family. What was His answer to their question (John 12:23–26, 32)?

7. a. Jesus said, **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** (John 12:27). What was **this hour** He wanted to be saved from (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 12:2)? For what purpose(s) did He come (John 18:37, Luke 19:10)?

b. What *do you think* Jesus meant by the statement **Father, glorify Your Name** (John 12:28)?

8. Name at least two important results of Jesus’ death on the cross (John 12:31–32).

9. Jesus told His followers to **walk while you have the light** (John 12:35) and **to believe in the light** (John 12:36).

a. What does it mean **to walk in the light** (John 12:35, 8:12)?

b. What happens to you if you walk in the light and then stop walking in the light (John 12:35)?

10. John 12:37 says, **But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him.** The apostle John, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said, **And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name** (John 20:30–31).

a. What happened to those who did not believe in the light Christ had manifested to them (John 12:38)?

b. What happens to those to whom God does not reveal Himself (John 12:39–41)?

11. Jesus came to save the world not to judge the world (John 12:47). Who or what will judge the world in the final judgment (John 12:48–50)?

1 Behold, the King!

1. Mary took spikenard or nard, a very costly oil prepared from the roots and stems of an aromatic herb from northern India, and anointed Jesus' feet while He ate with the disciples. Since Jesus and the guests would normally be reclining at divans rather than being seated at a table, Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet would have been easily accomplished. She wiped Jesus' feet with her hair. Judas Iscariot criticized Mary's actions as wasteful.
2. Judas Iscariot was an apostle and also the treasurer for the apostolic group. He was also a thief. He carried the money box with him as they traveled, from which he regularly stole (the Greek imperfect verb tense signifies continuous action).
3.
 1. She expressed her love for Jesus by offering a very costly gift to anoint Him.
 2. She expressed her love for Jesus by wiping His feet with her hair. Normally a Middle Eastern woman would not unloose her hair in public.
 3. She expressed her love for Jesus by touching His feet. Generally, an ordinary person would not touch a rabbi out of respect for him.
 4. She expressed her love by not allowing the social norms to limit her expression of worship.
 5. Other answers could apply.
4.
 - a. David told Araunah he would not accept the piece of land as a gift. David said he would not offer the Lord anything as a burnt offering that didn't cost him anything.
 - b. Answers will vary.
5.
 - a. It was a great number of people who had come from the outlying towns and villages to celebrate the Passover Feast in Jerusalem. Although the Bible does not say, it is likely the people from Galilee that had seen the good things Jesus did in their midst.
 - b. The disciples didn't understand Jesus was fulfilling a key Old Testament prophecy by entering into Jerusalem on a donkey.
6. Jesus said anyone who serves Him will be honored by the Father (John 12:26) and He (Jesus) would draw all people (all men) to Himself, including the Gentiles (John 12:32).
7.
 - a. Jesus' humanity wanted to be saved from the crucifixion (Hebrews 12:2, the cross)—the time when He would be made sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus came to bear witness to the truth (John 18:37) and to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10).
 - b. Rather than the Father granting Jesus' request to save Him from this hour (John 12:27), Jesus asked the Father to bring honor and attention (glorify Thy name) to His own name. To glorify God means to point others to God's person, power, and presence by all we think, do, and say.
8.
 1. Satan's power has been broken forever (John 12:31).
 2. Christ's death on the cross (lifted up) is so effective that it includes all peoples, including the Gentiles. Perhaps Christ being lifted up has a "connection" with Moses who raised up an image of a serpent on a pole (Numbers 21:4–9). All those who looked at the serpent were healed.
9.
 - a. To walk in the light means to follow Jesus' teaching as it is revealed in His Word the best you know how.
 - b. Spiritual darkness (unbelief, confusion, etc.) will overtake you, and you will become unable to discern God's plan for your life.
10.
 - a. God did not reveal additional truth (light) to them. This was in accordance with the prophecy God gave to Israel through the prophet Isaiah.
 - b. God blinded the eyes of their understanding (he didn't allow them to understand anything else about Himself or His ways), and He hardened their minds (John 12:39). Hardening of their hearts means that God brought these people to the point that they were closed to God and His spiritual truths. In their own minds, they had closed their minds, but it was actually God who had refused to reveal any more truth to them.
11. The Word of God. In the immediate context it is the words Jesus spoke, but, since Jesus is the Word, it includes all that God has revealed to man through the Holy Scriptures.