



Session

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JESUS IN JERUSALEM

John 12:12-16; 13:1-15

John chapter 12 serves as a shift in the story of Jesus. The first 11 chapters of the Book of John encompass nearly 3 years of Jesus' public ministry. The final 10 chapters of the book deal with one single week. This week deals with life, death, and resurrection, and its importance is highlighted by John as he spends much of his book focused on these events.

Jesus had spent the night in Bethany at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus whom Jesus had recently raised from the dead. At that time, Mary anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. The rest of this chapter shows Jesus as the Messiah, the One who would save His people from their sins. Mary's anointing of Jesus led directly into the triumphal entry. The crowds gathering in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover heard Jesus was coming, and they went out with their palm branches to greet Him.

John's account of what we call "The Triumphal Entry" is the shortest and least exciting of the four Gospel accounts. John chose to focus on Jesus, the coming King, instead of the events that surrounded Jesus' actual arrival into Jerusalem. John tells us the crowd that witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus was testifying about Jesus, and others heard their testimony and came to worship Jesus, too. The words of the crowd in John 12:13 testify that the crowd knew they were welcoming the Messiah, but Jesus was not what they expected their Messiah to be.

Later, Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave the earth and return to God. To leave an everlasting impression on His disciples about what true servanthood looked like, Jesus removed His outer garment and washed the feet of the disciples. Taking the role of a household servant, Jesus showed that no one was above servanthood. Jesus gave an example for people to follow, and through His life and actions, Jesus served others, even though He was the only One worthy of honor.