

The Essentials: The Gospel of John

Session 6: John 12: 12-26

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Read: John 12: 12-26 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. Consider the context of our passage: Lazarus has been raised from the dead, Jerusalem is swelling beyond capacity with people coming for the Passover, and people are flocking to Jesus. What thoughts do you think an onlooker might have had as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem?
2. Why might the religious leaders, the Pharisees, be nervous and plotting (v.19)?
3. V. 15 quotes from the prophet Zechariah, who prophesied that Israel would receive a king to redeem and restore them. What do you think people expected this king to do? What do they expect Jesus to do when he enters into Jerusalem riding on a colt?
4. Considering this event takes place at the Jewish Passover, why do you think there are Greeks (Gentiles) present? What would have caused them to be drawn to Jesus?
5. The Old Testament is deeply concerned about the glory of God. What is significant about Jesus referring to his death on the cross as the hour of his glory?
6. Jesus, teaches his disciples that if they give up their lives it will bear fruit (v. 24). What does he mean? And what might that mean in your life?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 12: 12-26

¹²The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So 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!" ¹⁴And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

¹⁵"Fear not, daughter of Zion;
behold, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. ²¹So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.