

JESUS IS ANOINTED FOR DEATH

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Crucify selfish desires so you can serve Jesus Christ and be honored by God.

Suggestion: The teacher lesson will call attention to some important truths to teach. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: Chapter 12 concludes Jesus' public teaching ministry. It is preceded by two events: Mary's anointing of Jesus and His triumphal entry into Jerusalem as its King. Mary's anointing and Judas' criticism of it showed the heart of a believer and that of a hypocrite. Jesus' triumphal entry showed the people's desire for Him to be King and the rulers' opposition to it. Jesus said, "If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honor" (Jn 12:26). We will continue from last week's lesson to notice the people's reactions to Jesus and follow those that served Him well.

What was the reaction of Mary? 12:1-3

Mary anointed Jesus with perfume that was worth one year's wages. Why did she react in this way? Several reasons come to mind: (1) she knew He was going to die for her sins and wanted to honor Him while He was alive; (2) she wanted to be identified with Him (when she wiped the excess perfume from Jesus' feet with her hair, she had the same fragrance as He had); (3) she wanted to show her gratefulness to Him for raising her brother from the dead; (4) she deeply loved Him and could not withhold her best from Him. **What have you given to Jesus to honor Him, to identify yourself with Him, and to show Him your gratefulness and love to Him?**

What was the reaction of Judas? 12:4-8

Judas criticized Mary for anointing Jesus with an expensive perfume as an extravagant waste. He was offended that this expensive perfume was poured on Jesus when it could have been sold for much money. He said the money could have been given to the poor, but he wanted the money to be given to him as the treasurer for the disciples. Then he could take some for himself, because he was a thief. He loved money more than Jesus. When Jesus rebuked him for his criticism of Mary, he was ready to betray Him and get some money for following Jesus. **If you had to choose money or Jesus, which would you choose? Money might bless you for awhile, but Jesus will bless you forever.**

What was the reaction of the people? 12:12-19

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey, the people from Bethany went before Him and hailed Him as the King of Israel. As they neared Jerusalem, the people from that city met and joined the crowd from Bethany to give Jesus a "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem. However, their enthusiasm for Him soon died down when they were opposed by the religious rulers. **How strong is your enthusiasm and service for Jesus? Do you start out well, but fail to follow and serve Him when the opposition is resistant?**

What was the reaction of the Heavenly Father? 12:20-36

God the Father spoke from heaven to show He was satisfied with His Son (v. 28), even though many of the people were mystified by Him (v. 34). **Are you satisfied with Jesus and are determined to serve Him, or do you have questions about His life and promises to you?**

What was the reaction of the chief rulers? 12:37-50

Many of the chief rulers believed on Jesus, but they would not confess Him openly because they loved the praise of the religious rulers more than the praise of God (vv. 42-43). **What will you do with Jesus? Will you confess Him before others or conceal Him in your heart? Do you want the praise of God or the pleasure of people?**