



John 12:12-26, Lesson #36
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John 12:12-16, “The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ The King of Israel!” Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: “Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt.” His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

- This was the large crowd that came for the greatest holidays of Judaism...Passover.
- Palm branches were a symbol of Jewish nationalism since the time of the Maccabees; so, this was like a patriotic parade.
- The crowd looked to Jesus as a political and national savior, but not so much as a spiritual savior.
- **Hosanna! “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!”** This large, enthusiastic crowd greeted Jesus with words from the Messianic Psalm, [Psalm 118:25-26](#).
- **Jesus** came in on a young donkey (colt) to fulfill prophecy (Zechariah 9:9) and to show that His kingdom was one of peace, not war.

“Jesus rode on a donkey, not the steed of royalty, but that of a commoner on a business trip.” (Tenney)

Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, appealed and appeals to those with repentant hearts who are ready for a Savior!

John 12:17-19, “Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”

- **The crowds adored Jesus because they believed that the raising of Lazarus from the dead proved that Jesus could be the conquering Messiah they longed for.**
- **“One who could summon a dead man back to life would certainly be able to deliver the holy city from the yoke of Caesar.” (Bruce)**

- *The popularity of Jesus was offensive to His enemies. It made them feel that they were accomplishing nothing and losing control.*
“A narcissist hates to lose control of a situation.”
- *“The Pharisees were of course exaggerating, but the words the world is gone after him ([John 12:19](#)), like the words of Caiaphas in [John 11:50](#), were unconsciously prophetic.” (Tasker)*

NOTE: *When our world leaders today make a statement that is negative or positive, the world hears about it through the media.*

Depending on the media source, they dwell on the statement and take it as they want it to be understood.

When we make a statement (vocally or in writing), we sometimes are misunderstood.

John 12:20-23, “Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.”

Who are “these certain Greeks”?

- *They may have been Greek converts to Judaism.*
- *They may have been Greek “God-fearers”---those who had great respect for Judaism but didn’t convert and become circumcised.*
- *They may have simply been Greek travelers, known for their curiosity.*

A possibility: *“We have heard much concerning him, and we wish to see the person of whom we have heard such strange things.*

Note: *The final salvation of the soul often originates, under God, in a principle of simple curiosity.*

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus”:

- ✓ *We have heard, now we want to see and speak with him.*
- ✓ *Our mission is to tell...Jesus will speak through the Spirit. Jesus will be presented and the Spirit will convict accordingly.*

“These men from the West (Greeks) sat the end of the Life of Jesus, set forth the same as the Magi from the East at its beginning: -- but they come to the Cross of the King, as those to His cradle.” (Stier, cited in Alford)

“The hour has come”:

- ✓ **At least twice before Jesus said that the time was not ready ([John 2:4](#) and [7:6](#)).**
- ✓ **He took this seeking interest of Gentiles as the signal that now the hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.**

Significance of this wonderful passage:

- *We see Jesus as the world’s Savior. It is evident that John means for us to understand that this contact with the Greeks (Gentiles) ushered in the climax...*
- *We can assume that Jesus wants us to understand that His mission has reached its climax and that he is now to die for the world, Greeks (Gentiles) included.” (paraphrased; Morris)*
- *The fact that His hour had not yet come had delivered Him from violence before ([John 7:30](#), [8:20](#)).*
- **Now that the hour has come, it was time for Jesus to make the final sacrifice.**

John 12:24-26, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.”

- Before there can be resurrection power and fruitfulness, there must be death.
- The principle stated in [verse 24](#) is of wide application; in particular, if it is true of Jesus, it must be true of his followers.” (Bruce)
- “The man whose priorities are right has such an attitude of love for the things of God that it makes all interest in the affairs of this life appear by comparison as a mere shadow/mist.” (Morris)

Note: My thoughts on this would be that we are to enjoy this life with family and friends. However, we are to look to the future and desire to bring family and friends with us to a more glorious life with Jesus.

“Where I am”: “The word refers, not to the place of our Lord at that moment, but to His essential, true place...in the glory and presence of the Father.”

“If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor”: This is a remarkable promise. The reward for serving Jesus is to receive honor from God the Father. This honor is both reward and recognition.