

John 12:12 - 50 (NLT) Jesus' Triumphant Entry

¹²The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors

¹³took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,
"Praise God!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

Hail to the King of Israel!" ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:

¹⁵ "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming,
riding on a donkey's colt."

¹⁶His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory,
they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

¹⁷Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others
about it.

¹⁸That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign.

¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"

The composition of the crowd:

1. Sensation seekers – sight seers looking for the next big thing.

John 6:5 (NLT) ⁵Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"

John 6:63 - 66 (NLT) ⁶³The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

⁶⁴But some of you do not believe me." (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn't believe, and he knew who would betray him.)

⁶⁵Then he said, "That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me."

⁶⁶At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.

2. King seekers – folks seeking a deliverer from Roman rule.

John 12:13 (NLT) ¹³took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!"

3. Assassin seekers – Jewish leaders seeking to kill Jesus & Lazarus

John 12:10 - 11 (NLT) ¹⁰Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, ¹¹for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

John 12:19 (NLT) ¹⁹Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"

4. Knowledge seekers – Greeks may have been on a quest to learn, not follow

John 12:20 - 22 (NLT)

²⁰Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration

²¹paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus."

²²Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

5. God (Salvation) seekers –Some truly believed in Jesus & were saved

John 12:42 - 43 (NLT) ⁴²Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue.

⁴³For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration

²¹paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus."

²²Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

²³Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory.

²⁴I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.

²⁵Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

²⁶Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

²⁷"Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came!

²⁸Father, bring glory to your name." Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again."

²⁹When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰Then Jesus told them, "The voice was for your benefit, not mine.

³¹The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out.

³²And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

³³He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

³⁴The crowd responded, "We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?"

³⁵Jesus replied, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going.

³⁶Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light." After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

- The phrase "all men" does not suggest universal salvation. It means "all people without distinction," that is, Jews and Gentiles.
- He does not force them; He draws them (see John 6:44-45).
- He was "lifted up" that men might find the way (John 12:32), know the truth (John 8:28), and receive the life (John 3:14).
- The cross reminds us that God loves the whole world and that the task of the church is to take the Gospel to the whole world.
- The people did not understand what He was teaching. They knew that "Son of man" was a title for Messiah, but they could not understand why Messiah would be crucified! Did not the Old Testament teach that the Messiah would live forever? (See Psalm 72:17; 89:36; 110:4; Isa. 9:7.)

The Unbelief of the People

³⁷But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him.

³⁸This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

"LORD, who has believed our message?

To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?"

³⁹But the people couldn't believe, for as Isaiah also said,

⁴⁰ "The Lord has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts—

so that their eyes cannot see,
and their hearts cannot understand,
and they cannot turn to me
and have me heal them.”

⁴¹Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he said this, because he saw the future and spoke of the Messiah’s glory.

⁴²Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn’t admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue.

⁴³For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

⁴⁴Jesus shouted to the crowds, “If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me.

⁴⁵For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me.

⁴⁶I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

⁴⁷I will not judge those who hear me but don’t obey me, for I have come to save the world and not to judge it.

⁴⁸But all who reject me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment by the truth I have spoken.

⁴⁹I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it.

⁵⁰And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”

Monday Morning Moment:

Follow the Light: *Even a small light can guide a person down a dark path or through a darkened room.*

JOHN 12:46 (KJV) ⁴⁶I AM COME A LIGHT INTO THE WORLD, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON ME SHOULD NOT ABIDE IN DARKNESS.

There only needs to be enough light to see the way.

- *Although we may not see everything clearly in life, we must act on the light we have. We can’t wait until everything is clear.*
- *Hear the urgency in Jesus’ words, “Walk while you have the light, before the darkness overtakes you.”*
- *Conditions may not be perfect, problems may be unsolved, and questions may be unanswered, but walk in the Light. He is the Light!*

Homework Q & A: *(Please use scripture where appropriate to support your answers.) Note: There could be more than one correct answer.*

1. Why was Jesus coming to Jerusalem? (12:12)
 - a. Observe Passover
 - b. Become King of the Jews
 - c. Die on the cross
 - d. Overthrow the Roman government
2. Why were the big crowds present to meet Jesus? (12:13)
 - a. To crown Him King of the Jews
 - b. To worship Him as Lord and Savior
 - c. To see Him perform more miracles
 - d. Because it was a cool place to be
3. Why did the disciples not understand what was going on? (12:16)
 - a. Ignorance of God’s Word
 - b. Disbelief in God’s Word
 - c. Unwilling to accept God’s Word
 - d. Afraid of the responsibility of God’s Word