

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 21

Introduction

After sharing with the crowd about the distinction between His first coming to die for sin and His second coming to reign in righteousness, Jesus walked the last few miles toward Jerusalem. As He passed through Jericho, He healed blind Bartimaeus' eyes and led another tax collector, Zacchaeus, to faith. In John 12:1–8, we are told Jesus arrived with His disciples in the city of Bethany. It is here that we are given our last glimpse of Mary, as she pours forth her love for Jesus in a significant act of worship.

On the last leg of the journey, as Jesus and the disciples neared Bethphage—located on the slope of the Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem—Jesus instructed two of His disciples to go into the village and bring back a donkey and its colt. Jesus then rode into Jerusalem on the colt, as a sign of His kingship, amid the people waving palm branches and crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!”

Once there, Jesus again predicts His death a third time and preaches a message to the people about dying to self and walking in the light of the truth He came to proclaim.

Did you know

Alabaster vases (jars) were used in ancient times to store valuable items like perfumes, oils, cosmetics, and costly spices such as aloe and myrrh. Perfumes were sprinkled on clothing and textured furniture and beddings. When combined with spices, they played an important part in embalming and burial, being sprinkled on the casket or into a burial fire (2 Chronicles 16:14).

When Mary opened her alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume to anoint Jesus, He understood it to foreshadow the anointing of His body as it was prepared for burial. In fact, following His crucifixion, Nicodemus brought a mixture of aloes and myrrh to be used in wrapping the body of Jesus (John 19:39–40). These were symbolic gestures bestowed upon Jesus as acts of sacrificial love.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Mary Anoints Jesus	John 12:1-8	Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9
The Triumphal Entry	John 12:12-19	Matt. 21:1-11; Mk.11:1-11; Lk 19:28-40
Jesus Summarizes Why He Came: Fruitful Grain of Wheat	John 12:20-26	
Predicts His Death a Third Time	John 12:27-41	
Walk in the Light	John 12:42-50	

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: John 12:24-25 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

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.

John 12:1–8

Extravagant Love: Mary Anoints Jesus

1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

5 'Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?'

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

7 But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.

8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.'

John 12:12–19

The Triumphal Entry

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 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!'

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

15 'Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt.'

16 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.

17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness.

18 For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, 'You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!'

John 12:20–26

The Fruitful Grain of Wheat

20 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast.

21 Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'

22 Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

23 But Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

24 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.

25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 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.'

John 12:42–50

Walk in the Light

42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, 'He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.

45 And he who sees Me, sees Him who sent Me.

46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me
should not abide in darkness.

47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him;
for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—
the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me
gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak,
just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

John 12:1–8

Extravagant Love: Mary Anoints Jesus

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 12:12–19

The Triumphal Entry

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

John 12:20–26

The Fruitful Grain of Wheat

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 12:1–8

Lesson:

Application: _____

John 12:12–19

Lesson:

Application: _____

John 12:20–26

Lesson:

Application: _____

John 12:42–50

Lesson:

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
