

## John 11:55-12:19 – The Triumphal Entry

What greater sign could Jesus do than raise a man who had been in the tomb for four days? Some people will not believe despite the quantity or quality of signs. However, many believed as a result of the sign which Jesus performed by raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus had power over life and death. He showed that life was in him and he was able to give it to whomever he desired. He is the resurrection and the life. He breaks the curse of sin and death.

### **Read John 11:55-12:11.**

After the resurrection of Lazarus, Jesus stayed away from Jerusalem because the religious leaders were seeking to kill him. However, now the Feast of Passover was near and Jesus was required by God's law to go to Jerusalem for the feast. Also, Jesus' hour was finally close at hand. The people were looking for Jesus but they were wondering if he would come. What order did the chief priests and Pharisees give concerning Jesus? (11:55-57)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. A dinner was held for Jesus. What did each one do at the dinner? Lazarus? Martha? Mary? (12:1-3)

Matthew and Mark both recorded this event but they never mentioned Mary's name. Why did Mary anoint Jesus' feet? Why did Judas object to what Mary did? Only John singled out Judas as the one who objected to what Mary did. The words of Judas remind us that evil can come in the wrapping of "good deeds". Can you think of examples where someone exhorted people to give money "to God" but was exposed as a thief? (12:4-8)

How did Jesus respond to Judas? What did Jesus mean? Was Jesus saying that we shouldn't give to the poor? Some people go to extremes. They either give money to anyone who appears to have a good cause or they never give money to anyone. Does Jesus' response to Judas give us any guidance on how we should use the money God gives to us? If so, explain. (12:7-8)

What was the lasting impact of Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus? The chief priests and Pharisees had already planned to kill Jesus. Who else did the chief priests want to kill and why? What does this tell us about the chief priests? (12:9-11)

**Read John 12:12-19.**

On the following day, the people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. What did they do? What did they say? What was the significance of their actions and words? (12:12-13)

What did Jesus do? What prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem? (12:14-15)

The disciples did not initially understand what was happening. When did they understand the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? Why did they eventually understand the significance of Jesus' triumphal entry? (12:16)

What helped to build the large crowd which came to meet Jesus as he entered Jerusalem? (12:17-18)

How did the Pharisees react when they saw the large crowd go out to greet Jesus? (12:19)

The other gospels did not mention the resurrection of Lazarus. John saw it as an extremely important sign. What were some of the results of the resurrection of Lazarus?

Chapter 12 begins Passion Week. In the first 11 chapters, there have been six signs, five "I am" statements and five witnesses. Can you name them? In the rest of the book, there is one final sign, two more "I am" statements and two more witnesses.