

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

The Gospel of John

John 11:55–12:19

Read John 11:55–12:11.

1. What important event does the Passover commemorate, and what significance does it hold for God’s people? (v. 55; Exod. 12:21–27; Deut. 16:1)

2. What are the crowds asking in the temple area? Why is there such uncertainty? (vv. 53–57)

3. What is occurring at a home in Bethany six days before the Passover? (vv. 1–2)

4. Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with perfume. How does this change the mood of the celebration? (vv. 3–7)

5. Consider what the gospels tell us about Mary (Jn. 11:28–33; 12:1–3; Lk. 10:38–42). What do you think prompts her to honor Jesus with such a lavish act?

6. Contrast Mary’s action with Judas’ response (📖* Jn. 3:19–21).
 - a. What value systems are in competition here?

 - b. How does Jesus respond to Mary and Judas? (vv. 7–8)

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

7. Even though Mary's act is extreme and startling, it appropriately expresses her devotion and gratitude. What act of devotion to Jesus – big or small – would be appropriate for you at this point in your life?

8. Why is Lazarus a major problem for the Jewish leaders? (vv. 9–11)

For background read Psalm 118:19–29 and Zechariah 9:9–10. The crowds in Jerusalem knew “Hosanna!” (“God save us!”) from singing Psalm 118 at the time of the feasts.

Read John 12:12–19.

9. Why is there such excitement among the great crowd that has come to the Passover feast? (vv. 12–13; Jn. 6:14–15)

10. Typically a conquering ruler would enter a city riding a horse with soldiers behind him and captives in tow. In contrast, how does Jesus enter Jerusalem? (v. 14)

What does this difference reveal about Jesus the King? (Jn. 18:36; Zech. 9:9–10)

11. This passage contains several instances of people speaking and acting in ways that they themselves do not fully understand. From our perspective, what more are we able to see?
Mary (Jn. 12:3, 7; 19:39–40):

The Crowds (Jn. 12:13; Rev. 17:14; 19:13–16):

Pharisees (Jn. 12:19; 12:32; Zech. 9:10b):

12. Look back over your life. How has Jesus fulfilled expectations above and beyond what you originally understood? Worship him as your true King.