

IF... ANYONE KNOWS

John 11:55–12:19

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, John, Passover, temple, chief priests, arrest, Lazarus, Bethany, Mary, Martha, dinner, served, table, anointed, ointment, feet, hair, nard, perfume, Judas Iscariot, disciples, betray, 300 denarii, the poor, thief, moneybag, burial, crowds, believing, Jerusalem, palm branches, hosanna, blessed, name of the Lord, King of Israel, donkey, daughter of Zion, glorified, tomb, bear witness, sign, Pharisees, the world

Introduction

Jerusalem is electric as Passover approaches. Pilgrims from all over have come to observe the feast in Jerusalem, but there is something different about this year. Word has spread like wildfire about this itinerate rabbi, prophet, and healer from Galilee, and there are rumors that a man named Lazarus was raised from the dead. This powder keg only needs a spark. The winds of revolution are blowing, and the people are ready to make Jesus their king. Their imaginations swirl, and they wonder if Jesus truly is the Messiah of God. A meal with friends sets the stage for the Sunday of the week that changed everything—Holy Week.

Jesus arrives on Sunday in Jerusalem, and he does not disappoint. The crowds gather as he descends westward down the Mount of Olives toward the Holy City. The crowds seem ready for war as they acclaim Jesus to be king instead of Caesar. These actions set in motion a series of events that will end in the brutal death of Jesus. The chief priests and Pharisees had given instructions—IF... ANYONE KNOWS where Jesus is; they should report it. Soon no one will wonder where Jesus is as he enters the city.

Outline

People try to find Jesus for many reasons (v. 56).

When you are close to Jesus, you have desires to serve like Martha, witness like Lazarus, and be devoted like Mary (vv. 2-3).

People who have tasted grace don't count or measure when it comes to Jesus (vv. 3-5).

Your motives for serving Jesus matter (v. 6).

Don't be surprised if your relationship with Jesus causes conflict (vv. 9-11).

Make sure you are seeking the right kingdom (vv. 13-15).

The Bible will tell you about Jesus (v. 16).

Keep telling people about Jesus (v. 17).

Application

What limits have you placed on Jesus?

Whose kingdom are you seeking?

Who do you need to tell about Jesus?

Questions

1. What is Passover? Why is it significant at this point in Jesus' life?
2. What can we learn from Mary's example about sacrifice and love?
3. How do you view your possessions? If Jesus asked you to give up everything, would that be difficult? Why?
4. Share a time when you gave extravagantly (it doesn't have to be financial).
5. Who needs to hear about Jesus from you this week?