

The King They Wanted, the Christ They Rejected - An Exegetical Study Guide on John 12 (NASB 1995)

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Memory Verse

John 12:24 (NASB 1995)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

Lesson Objectives

- Identify the major scenes and responses in John 12
- Contrast true worship with false religion and superficial praise
- Understand the cross as the hour of Christ’s glory
- Apply principles of costly devotion, self-denial, and bold confession

Thesis

John 12 reveals Jesus as the worthy King and willing sacrifice whose cross brings glory and draws all people, while exposing every heart: some worship extravagantly, some reject the Light, and some believe secretly but refuse to confess Him openly.

Primary Text

John 12:1-50 (Read in preparation)

Section 1: Costly Worship vs. False Religion (John 12:1-11)

Key Verse: “Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus...” (v. 3)

- I. What does Mary’s act teach us about the nature of true worship?
- II. How does Judas’ objection reveal the danger of religious hypocrisy and greed?

Gem: Worship is measured by what it costs us, not by how it appears to others.

Section 2: The Misunderstood King (John 12:12-19)

Key Verse: “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” (v. 15)

III. In what ways did the crowd misunderstand Jesus' kingship?

IV. What does Jesus riding a donkey reveal about the nature of His kingdom?

Gem: Many welcome Jesus when He fits their plans, but reject Him when He calls them to the cross.

Section 3: The Hour of Glory – The Grain Must Die (John 12:20-36)

Key Verse: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” (v. 32)

V. What does the principle of the “grain of wheat” mean for Jesus and for His followers?

VI. Why is the cross simultaneously judgment, victory, and glory?

Gem: True fruitfulness in the kingdom always comes through death to self.

Section 4: Response to the Light (John 12:37-50)

Key Verse: “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.” (v. 49)

VII. Why did many refuse to believe despite the signs?

VIII. What is the danger of secret belief without open confession?

Gem: Fear of man and love of human praise can keep people from true discipleship.

Word Study

- **Doxazō** (glorify) – Jesus’ glory is revealed through the cross (vv. 23, 28)
- **Hypsōthō** (lifted up) – Refers to crucifixion as exaltation (v. 32)
- **Helkō** (draw) – The crucified Christ draws people from every nation
- **Pisteuō** (believe) – Active trust that must lead to confession

Personal & Congregational Application

- I. Where is God calling you to offer costly worship like Mary?
- II. Are you willing to “die” to self in order to bear fruit for Christ?
- III. Do you confess Jesus openly, or does fear of others silence you?
- IV. How will you walk in the Light while you still have the opportunity?

My Personal Response

(Write your thoughts, commitments, and prayer here)

Conclusion

The question of John 12 is not only what others did with Jesus — but what will **you** do with the Light while He stands before you?

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