

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of John<sup>1</sup>

*Week 17 ~ Exploring John 12:1-50*

## **Personal Study Time:**

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

### **Day 1: Read John 12:1-50 twice and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Compare John 1:19 - 2:11 with John 12-19. List the evidence in these respective sections that each covers roughly a week of time. Do you see any relation between these "weeks" in the Gospel and Creation week in Gen 1 and 2? In a paragraph or two, please outline the theological significance of perceiving the cross in the light of Creation week.
- The actions of both Mary and Judas could be evil or beneficial depending on the context in which they occurred. On what basis is Mary commended and Judas condemned in this account? Please explain your answer.

### **Day 2 : Read John 12:1-50 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Compare John 12:12-16 with Zech 9, the context from which the quotation in verse 15 is drawn. Does the arrival of the Greeks in 12:20 relate to anything in the context of Zech 9:9? What point is John making about the nature of Jesus' kingship and the difference between his view of Jesus' kingship and that of the crowd in John 12:9-19? Please explain in a paragraph or two.

### **Day 3 : Read John 12:1-50 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- What do you think Jesus is calling His disciples to do in verses 25, 26? Where is Jesus to be found in the world of everyday life? How do you follow Him in practice?
- On the basis of the context, why does Jesus seem to be troubled in verse 27? What do the Greeks have to do with the cross?

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<sup>1</sup> Much of this study is quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

**Day 4 : Read John 12:1-50 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

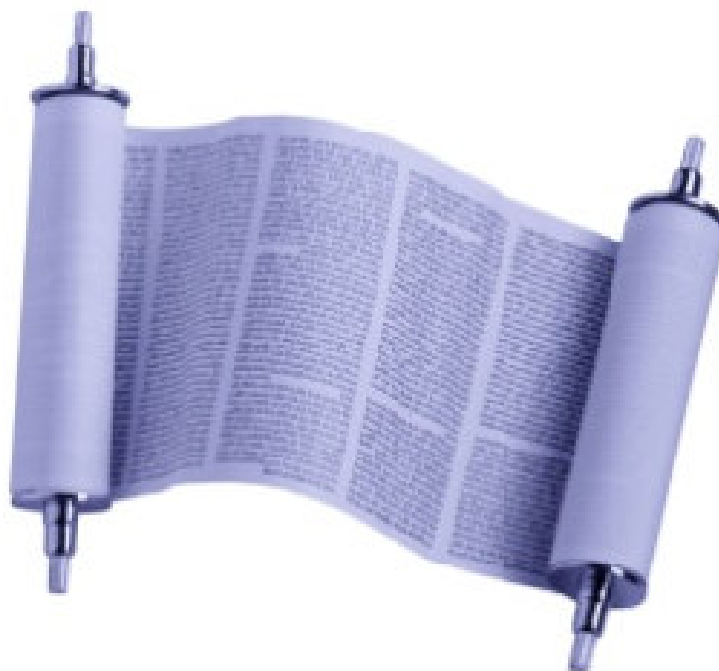
- If you had a year's worth of salary or a year of time to use to honor Jesus how would you use it? How would your friends be likely to react? What percentage of your current budget reflects a commitment to honoring Jesus? What percentage should be devoted directly to honoring Jesus? Would the percentage be different if you were a millionaire? How does one balance the needs of others ("the poor") with one's own needs?
- Is your present relationship with Jesus like that of the crowd in John 12-- up and down depending on the latest events? Can you think of a time when your experience with Christ was really powerful and some piece of news just took all the wind out of your sails in an instant? Can you think of strategies that can help make one's Christian walk more consistent?

**Day 5 : Read John 12:1-50 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation like that of the religious leaders who believed in Jesus but refused to confess Him because they feared the loss of their colleagues' approval (cf. 42, 43)? Where are such situations most likely to happen in today's world? At home? On the job? In school? What is it that makes us the most hesitant to share our faith?

**Day 6 : Read John 12:1-50 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- How does your church relate to people like Mary who have slipped badly, but want to make a fresh start? Does it make a difference if the offense is the first or if the person is a repeat offender? Why or why not?
- After this week's study, will you relate to people like Mary differently? Please explain.



The Pastor's Bible Study meets every Saturday morning at 10 A.M. at the Vancouver Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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