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John 12: JESUS – Truth Revealed, Not Explained

Introductory Statement: In this Gospel John, son of Thunder, original member of JESUS' disciples, the one whom JESUS loved, apostle to the world, and recipient of apocalyptic visions presents JESUS as the Son of GOD. He emphasizes our LORD's divinity to all who would read his good-news account of JESUS. In this chapter John shares about the events leading up to JESUS' fulfillment of HIS purpose: He came to be born, introduce the arrival of the realm where the FATHER reigns supreme and JESUS reigns as KING, proclaim good news about life in this KING's domain, execute the release from mankind's bondage of darkness, and in triumph as a victorious conqueror who re-established the FATHER's order of things.

Objectives:

Following this study we should be able to...

- *Understand the setting of events in this chapter*
- *Examine the significance of JESUS being anointed.*
- *Identify moments of prophecy fulfilled and prophecy spoken*
- *Discover belief inhibitors toward JESUS' identity of SON of GOD*
- *Explore moments where timing is crucial*



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THE SETTING

- Locations:
 - Bethany (House of Affliction; House of Figs)
 - Eastern slopes of Mount of Olives (Olive Grove, Place of Burial, Garden of Gethsemane, JESUS' post-resurrection ascension, place of HIS return); Modern Day West Bank;
 - Less than 2 miles from Jerusalem
 - Home of Mary, Martha, Lazarus (probably house of Simon the leper [Matthew 26:6], possibly their father)
 - Entry to Jerusalem
- Occasion: Honorary Dinner for JESUS; Pre-Passover Festival
- Characters
 - Mary – prioritized worship
 - Martha – prioritized service
 - Lazarus – JESUS raised from dead (siblings whom JESUS loved)
 - JESUS – Son of God; King of Kings
 - Judas Iscariot – Disciple of Jesus; Thief; Betrayer; Suicide
 - Chief Priest – Highest Ranking Jewish religious official
 - Pharisees – Jewish religious leaders
 - Greeks – non-Jewish converts
 - Phillip and Andrew – disciples who were brothers
 - FATHER GOD



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THE ANOINTING

John 12:1-11 (NIV)

^{12:1}Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵"Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." ⁹Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

- The Passover is an annual Jewish festival
 - Occurs end of March ends early April
 - Commemorates the angel of death passing over the Hebrew households while executing judgment in Exodus
 - Exodus 12:1-2,11-14
 - ^{12:1} While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: ²"From now



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on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. ¹¹These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD's Passover. ¹²On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the LORD! ¹³But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴"This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. This is a law for all time.

- Jews from around the world celebrate the Passover at the same time annually
- Lazarus' resurrection was a big event (Big Chill)
 - John 11 – listen to previous week's teaching for more detail
- This dinner was necessary for reasons beyond the individuals' knowledge
 - Jesus was anointed for additional future assignments
 - Anoint – Greek - Chrio'; Chra'omai (verbs)
 - to rub, pour on to represent the flow of the Holy Spirit (consecrate)
 - to make use of
 - Hebrew – Mashach' – to smear
 - Heaven's Endorsement



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- JESUS had already been anointed with the Holy Spirit for miracles, signs, and wonders
 - Acts 10:38 (NLT)
^{10:38} And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
 - Luke 3:21-23 (NLT)
^{3:21} One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.” ²³ Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry.
 - Luke 4:18-19 (NLT)
^{4:18} “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, ¹⁹ and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.
- [Sidebar: *If we want to be anointed, like JESUS, we must follow HIS example of heart posture and motive*
 - *Philippians 2:1-13 (NLT)*
^{2:1} *Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?* ² *Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.* ³ *Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be*



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humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.]

- JESUS was being anointed to prepare His body for Burial
 - Nard / Spikenard– a flowering plant whose extract was used to prepare anointing oils, incense for temple worship, and perfumes; expensive
 - Jewish custom was to wash the body and rub it with spices and fine oil, then wrap it in cloths.
 - John 19:39-40 (NIV)
³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. [\[e\]](#)
⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the



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spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

- Despite JESUS' explanation they still didn't understand
- JESUS was now being anointed for his Kingship
 - Saul was anointed to be King - I Samuel 9:15-16, 10:1 (NIV)
9:15 Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed this to Samuel: 16 "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over my people Israel; he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me."
10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over his inheritance?"
 - David was anointed to be King (Saul's successor)
1 Samuel 16:1, 11-13 (NIV)
16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." 12 So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the



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LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

- 2 Samuel 5:2-4 (NIV)
^{5:2} In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”³ When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.⁴ David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years.
- Anointing precedes service (note timing)
- While you’re being anointed observe the motives (heart posture) of those among (near) you
 - Mary – worship; love; adoration
 - Demonstrated JESUS’ heart
 - Judas – insincere service; self-serving (I’m rolling with you as long as it benefits me. Love of Money...)
- GOD’s timing and order supercedes all others items on the agenda
 - Priority is a measure of impact and urgency, not a measure of significance
 - You will have the poor always and can serve them at another time
 - Time is of the essence as JESUS will not be physically present much longer



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- The anointing will cause others to be jealous/envious of GOD's working through your life. They may want to destroy you and your good works.
 - John (baptizer) had the correct heart posture / response to the FATHER's anointed one
 - HE must increase, I must decrease
 - John 3:30-31 (NKJV)
^{3:30} He must increase, but I *must* decrease. ³¹ He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all..
 - Pharisees were afraid that they would no longer be relative or respected
 - John 12:10-11 (NLT)
¹⁰ Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too,
¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

THE CELEBRATION

- JESUS' Anointing for Kingship Begins to Manifest
 - John 12:12-19 (NIV)
^{12:12} The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors ¹³ took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: ¹⁵ "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt." ¹⁶ His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But



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after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. ¹⁷ Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others^[i] about it. ¹⁸ That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. ¹⁹ Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!”

- JESUS declared in John 5 that the works that HE did already verified the Truth of HIS Identity
 - John 5:36 (NIV)
^{5:36} “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.
- JESUS’ entry was the fulfillment of a prophecy
- Prophecy – Greek - *Prophetei’a* (communicating & enforcing revealed truth; foretelling and/or forthtelling)
 - Zechariah 9:9 (NLT)
^{9:9} Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey’s colt.

THE PROPHECY

- JESUS Prophecies His Pending Death
- John 12:20-36 (NIV)
^{12:20} Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell



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Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. ²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. ²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. ³⁴ The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?” ³⁵ Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. ³⁶ Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

- Key Terms
 - Glorified – Greek – *Doxazo* – honor, ascribe weight by recognizing real substance; value
 - Very, Truly (Verily, Verily) – JESUS amens HIMself before completing HIS statement
 - Implies first-hand, original knowledge of the one speaking



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- The metaphor of a wheat kernel confirms another prophecy by the High Priest
 - John 11:50-51 (NIV)
 - ⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.” ⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation,
 - If the SON did not die, there would not be sons/daughters (the fruit of the Son)
- The people around JESUS heard HIS explanations and even heard the voice of the FATHER, but were unable to discern/understand
 - Who is this Son of Man?
- They did not know who JESUS was because HE hadn't been revealed to them
 - The disciples didn't fully understand who HE was
 - Matthew 16:13-17 (NLT)
^{16:13} When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”
¹⁵ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.
- JESUS prophesied about defeating the devil
 - The devil is the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy



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- John 10:10 (NIV)
^{10:10} The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full
- JESUS came to destroy the enemy's works
- 1 John 3:8b (NKJV)
 - ^{3:8} ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- JESUS Prophesied the Crucifixion
 - John 12:32
^{12:32} And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

THE STRUGGLE

- Despite HIS Efforts, the People Would Not Believe on JESUS
- John 12:37-50 (NIV)
^{12:37} Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" ³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: ⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them." ⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. ⁴² Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God. ⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ The one who



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looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. ⁴⁷ “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. ⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. ⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

- JESUS wants everyone to Believe
- JESUS wants everyone to be Saved
- The People seek Explanation while JESUS looks to provide Revelation
- JESUS can be Revealed to those who have the correct posture of Heart
 - Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)
^{29:11} For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.



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THE APPLICATION (Take-Away Points)

- Ask for Wisdom to understand how to function within GOD's Timing
- Celebrate Your King Publicly
- JESUS wasn't deterred by external events or the people creating them; do likewise
- Love GOD more than you love people
- There will be a day of reckoning -- Judgment
- JESUS died for you, will you live for HIM
- JESUS is the Eternal GOD
- What is your Heart's Posture