

Episode #1-47 – When the Jews Believed

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. In John 12, the Lord arrives in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover on which He would die for our sins. We begin to trace out the events and teachings of His last few days of ministry before this great event.

III. John 12:9-11. The faith of the Jews.

- A. V.9. Many Jews (rich rulers) came to see, not just Him, but also Lazarus.
- B. V.10. The chief priests decide that Lazarus too must die violently. (Explains Mark 14:51-52. Lazarus was the only disciple wanted.)
- C. V.11. It was one thing when the common people believed, but now many of the rich class are as well. Many claim today that “the Jews rejected Jesus.” Notice this passage. MANY believed. Acts 21:20b says the same.

IV. John 12:12-16. The triumphal entry.

- A. V.12. Next day after the dinner at Martha’s. Many who are coming to the feast (not Jerusalemites) hear He is coming.
- B. V.13. Customary when a great king rides down the street to spread fine garments in the street before him in reverence and honor. The poor crowds did not own such things, so they used branches from trees: they did their best. Hosanna=”save now!” Ps. 118:25-26. They believe He is their King. (True!)
- C. V.14. Not a spectacular animal, but appropriate for the king of a poor and downtrodden people.
- D. V.15. Zechariah 9:9. Fulfills prophecy to the letter. Israel’s kings were forbidden to multiply horses (Deu. 17:16). He was allowed one horse for himself. The Lord comes in the future riding a white horse, Rev. 19:11.
- E. V.16. Probably the disciples enjoyed this, but did not understand it. Later they matched this up with the Word. John 10:2, He came in as prophesied.

V. John 12:17-19. The faith of the people.

- A. V.17. These witnesses were all Jews: rich and respected. The people will believe all the more with their testimony. Remember the purpose of John: that we believe too!
- B. V.18. Many meet Him and believe in Him because of this sign. Notice: it is not true that miracles never work to produce faith.
- C. V.19. The Pharisees realize this movement is getting far beyond their control. World=*kosmos*, orderly system or arrangement. Since the leaders of that world were believing. Let us not be like these unbelieving men (remember the purpose of John.)

VI. Conclusion: The seventh and greatest of the signs that the Lord performed, the resurrection of Lazarus, caused many people to believe, even those among the rich, ruling class. This pushed the Lord’s enemies to seek His death. The healing of the lame man on the Sabbath was the first straw, the healing of the blind man on the Sabbath the second, but Lazarus being raised was the last straw. Yet many flocked to the Lord because of this. The question: will we believe like the multitudes, or reject like His enemies? The choice is ours!