



01

JOHN 12:1-13

THE GREATEST GIFT



THIS WEEK'S focus

Social media has revealed quite a lot about humanity, but one particularly interesting thing is how many adults still sleep with their baby blanket. (If you haven't seen any of these posts, search "TikTok adults baby blankets" to find some.) We might desire a lot of items that these people display on their accounts, but the value of a baby blanket or childhood stuffed animal is something no one but the owner understands. It just goes to show that while something might be priceless to us, others might not see any value to it at all. This week we'll get a peek into a dinner where Jesus was given a deeply meaningful gift that others were quick to misunderstand. But this valuable gift is hugely important because it reveals the true treasure: Jesus Himself.



CENTRAL truth

Jesus is our Savior and our greatest treasure.



EXPLORE.

scripture

JOHN 12:1-13

JOHN 12:1-3

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** So they gave a dinner for him there; Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him.

3 Then Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped his feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

JOHN 12:4-8

4 Then one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was about to betray him), said, **5** "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" **6** He didn't say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a

thief. He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it.

7 Jesus answered, "Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of my burial. **8** For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

JOHN 12:9-13

9 Then a large crowd of the Jews learned he was there. They came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, the one he had raised from the dead. **10** But the chief priests had decided to kill Lazarus also, **11** because he was the reason many of the Jews were deserting them and believing

in Jesus. **12** The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, **13** they took palm branches and went out to meet him. They kept shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!"

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 12:17

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JOHN 12:1-3

DWELL

This dinner happened after Lazarus's death and resurrection and in the midst of death threats against Jesus. To those present, it's likely that death felt more real—and yet, less threatening—than ever. It's easy to see how this setting would have drawn Mary to worship. After all, she was with her beloved brother who had been brought back to life and with the One who raised Him!



How were Mary's actions acts of worship?



How does Mary's extravagant worship challenge you?

MEMORIZE

Using colored pencils or pens, creatively write out John 12:17 on a piece of paper. Read the verse out loud five times. Finally, try to say it out loud five times without looking, trying to picture it in your mind instead.

PRAY

Ask God to help you see what your heart truly treasures, and ask Him to help you treasure Jesus above all else.

day 2

JOHN 12:4-8

DWELL

Judas's greed was an ongoing problem in his life. In verse 6, John reveals that Judas had been habitually stealing from the money bag, and in verse 5 we see how Judas's greed motivated him to diminish Mary's act of worship. All of this greed culminated horrifically when Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (see Matt. 26:15).



How can seemingly small sins grow and bring about devastation?



Is there a sin in your life that seems small but has become an ongoing and potentially growing problem? Share this in prayer with God.

MEMORIZE

Invent motions that match the words in John 12:17, and practice them while saying the words out loud a few times. It probably feels a little weird, but hey, sometimes movement can help engage our brains!

PRAY

Ask God to show you any seemingly small, habitual sins you might have throughout your day today. As He does, spend time confessing those sins in prayer and asking for help.

day 3

JOHN 12:9-11

DWELL



Why do you think the religious leaders wanted to kill Lazarus?



How was Lazarus's life powerful testimony about God?

As you've likely noticed throughout the book of John, people of Jesus's day were obsessed with His "signs"—the miracles He performed that were not merely intended as actions but as arrows pointing to His true identity. Lazarus's new life was a powerful proclamation that Jesus was truly God because He had power over death.

MEMORIZE

Write out John 12:17 on a piece of paper or note card, and place it next to your bed. Make it a goal to say it five times before you go to bed and five times when you wake up.

PRAY

Spend some time in prayer telling God all that you know to be true about Him and praising Him for it. If it helps, write it down as you pray.

day 4

JOHN 12:12-15

DWELL

If you've been in church for a while, you are probably familiar with Palm Sunday, the day we celebrate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It's a joyful day on the surface, but within the context of the big story, we can sense its ominous tone. Those who were proclaiming "Hosanna!" or "Lord, save us!" were also the ones who would soon be shouting, "Crucify Him!" Soon, the murderous desires of the religious elite would spread to the common people. Strangely enough, though, the "Crucify Him!" shouts would lead to the fulfillment of the first shout: "Lord, save us!".



What does the temporary excitement of the crowd teach you about human nature?



How does it encourage you that this event was predicted in the Old Testament? (See vv. 14-15 and Zech. 9:9.)

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 12:17 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Ask God if there are ways that you are following the crowd instead of following Him. Ask Him to help you discern His voice above the shouts of the crowd, whatever they may be shouting.

day 5

JOHN 12:16-19

DWELL

The disciples were not able to immediately process much of what was happening during these final days of Jesus. In the same way, when we read God's Word, we are often not able to immediately process it and understand the rich meaning. But over time, the Holy Spirit illuminates little "light bulbs" in our heads to help us better understand God's story.



How does verse 16 encourage you to persevere when you are confused by what God is doing?



How can the crowd's continued testimony influence how we talk about what God has done?

MEMORIZE

Share John 12:17 with a friend or family member and explain what it means. Then, invite them to randomly quiz you at some point today to see if you can remember the verse.

PRAY

Praise God for how He reveals Himself, and ask Him to increase your faith in the story He is writing about Himself through your own life.