

**CCF Study Notes**  
**Tuesday 7 AM Study**  
**28 March 2006**  
**John Chapter 12**

Before beginning to read from John Chapter 12 let's spend some time in prayer, considering what it means to glorify Jesus Christ. Let's just:

1. **Lavishly** pour out our love to Jesus;
2. **Consider** the wonder of knowing Christ;
3. **Review** all the wonders that God has done through Jesus;
4. **Exalt** the Lord as our Messiah, our only hope;
5. **Offer** ourselves as living sacrifices to God;
6. **Walk** in the Light He gives, and
7. **Remove** any obstacles or limitations to faith in Jesus Christ.

Chapter 12 brings to a close the narrative account of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and Judea. John moves on to detail those intimate upper room teachings of Jesus. Then the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension narratives close out John's gospel. Here in chapter 12 closure is given to the public ministry of Jesus – apart from the vital ministry of His death and resurrection. Jesus will interact mostly with His disciples in the chapters that follow, the public ministry of Jesus being at an end. We see the responses of those “friends” of Jesus, of the Jews, of the multitude, of the Gentiles, and of the broader category of “Christ-followers”. And we see Jesus looking forward to the great work that lay ahead, while wistfully considering what had been accomplished in His years of public ministry. A last call to faith is given as Jesus retires from public ministry. Times of change come in our lives as well, when one ministry is finished and another is taken up. We can learn many lessons about dealing with such changes from the example of our Lord. Can you pick out those phrases that reveal the intense emotions of chapter 12?

Martha served, being ever the practical sister. Mary poured out her love to Christ. The businessman was appalled at the waste – and his own personal loss. Loss and gain are the key to verses 1-8. Who lost what? Who gained what?

Jesus had become a star attraction, and Lazarus a wonder to the crowds. Some put a price on Lazarus' head. Others brought into Lazarus' story and believed in Jesus. What was the motive of the chief priests? What was the motive of those who believed? Why do we see such polarization in people's response to Jesus?

The multitude of new believers welcomed Jesus as their King, hailing Him with palm branches. Why did they hail Jesus that day? What did this strike fear in the heart of the

Pharisees? Often we name Jesus as Lord without really letting Him rule. At other times the Lordship of Christ strikes fear in our hearts, as we consider our own insignificance. What does it mean to call Jesus “Lord”? (Verses 12-19)

The Greeks sought to use Jesus as a means to restore their fortunes lost to the Romans. Jesus knew that His glory lay along another path. And Jesus called His disciples to follow Him on that path – the path to the cross. When the world offers all its glory and wealth in exchange for our allegiance we must not accept anything less than the glory and wealth God has in store for those who are faithful to the end.

What is it that troubled Jesus as He came to the end of His ministry? (Verses 27-36) We are often bitter and frustrated at how little God seems to accomplish in our ministry, at the hardness of men's hearts. We must know that Jesus himself was troubled by the same sorts of issues as He ended His public ministry. Is there any encouragement in that? How so?

Notice that verse 36 marks the end of Jesus' public ministry. What follows is something of a survey of just where Jesus left off in His ministry. Here (Verses 37-41) the failure to believe in spite of the signs is detailed and explained. The failure to respond was exactly as prophesied long before by Isaiah. Some issues are timeless. The wonder of Christ, of his words and works, is lost to many hearts – even to this day. The wonders of God's judgment on a Christ-rejecting world will likewise fail to turn many hearts (cf. Revelation chapters 6-19).

Even among those who see, hear and believe there is an issue. Many will not confess Christ because they love the praise of men more than the praise of God. How is this sentiment expressed today? Is there still a certain offense associated with Christ?

The final public call is given. (Verses 44-50) One cannot claim to believe in God or even know God while at the same time rejecting Christ. Either we enter into the Light, or we remain under judgment. The words of Christ, His gospel of the Kingdom, bring judgment to those who reject them or fail to embrace them by complete obedience. The word of God becomes that winnowing fork that separates the wheat from the chaff. What Jesus spoke were the very words of the Father. His command is everlasting life, so even Jesus did not deviate one iota from what the Father gave Him to say. How do we respond to those who call for us to “broaden” our message, or at least admit we might be wrong on some points?

Let's close in quiet meditation on what Jesus has said to us. His words are everlasting life to us. What are we doing with His words?