

1. What was the most memorable verse or thought from last week's study? For what reason(s) was this memorable? Record some thoughts.

**DAY ONE**

**Read John 12:1-8**

2. In this week's lesson, Jesus was in Bethany six days before Passover. There was a dinner for Jesus. Martha served and Lazarus was among those reclining at table (verse 2). What unusual thing did Mary do for Jesus that caused the house to be filled with the fragrance of oil (verse 3)?

**NOTE: There is more than one Mary in the New Testament. Scholars debate whether Mary of Bethany was the same person as Mary Magdalene and/or the same person as the sinful woman from the Gospel of Luke who anointed our Lord's feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.**

3. Judas Iscariot, Jesus' disciple who would later betray Him, objected to Mary's extravagance (verse 4). Record his question from verse 5.

4a. Judas did not care about the poor and used to steal from the common purse (verse 6). What did Jesus tell him (verse 7)?

b. In this verse Jesus once again foretells His imminent death. Complete Jesus' admonition to Judas in verse 8.

5. Many of the details of Jesus' dinner with His friends foretell His death. From the previous verses identify some clues to this tragic event.

6. CONNECTION: Mary was extravagant with her love and tears as she lavishly anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. Though she didn't know when Jesus would leave them, she treated Him as though it was His last day. We sometimes take for granted those we love, failing to give them our best, forgetting to let them know how much they mean to us, forgetting to thank them. Write the name of someone you love. It may be a member of your family or a friend. Then next to that name write some thing(s) you could do this week to show that person how special he/she is to you. Share some of your ideas with the group.

Read and record Romans 1:11 and begin your prayer giving thanks for the precious gifts of friends and family that God has given you.

## **DAY TWO**

**Read John 12:9-19**

7a. A large crowd came to see, not only Jesus, but also Lazarus. Why did they want to see Lazarus?

b. Why did the chief priests want to kill Lazarus (as well as Jesus) according to verses 10-11?

8a. On the next day when the crowd which had come to Jerusalem for Passover heard Jesus was coming there, they went out to meet Him carrying palm branches (verse 12). What were they shouting according to verse 13?

b. Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was full of Old Testament symbolism such as the waving of palms and riding on a donkey or donkey's colt. Read 1 Kings 1:38 and identify the famous king who also rode on a donkey (or mule) and comment on the significance of his choice of steed.

9. Verse 15 quotes Zechariah 9:9, a prophecy about the future messiah. Record the last two lines.

10. According to verse 16, the disciples did not understand the significance of these events and how they were related to Old Testament prophecies. When would they understand?

11a. Word that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead continued to spread. Who spread this information and what was the result (verses 17-18)?

b. What did the Pharisees say to each other in frustration (verse 19)?

12. CONNECTION: Though the disciples were with Jesus every day, even they did not comprehend the meaning of all He was doing until after His resurrection. Then, as they looked back over the events, recalled the Old Testament prophecies, and remembered Jesus' words, they understood more completely what they had experienced. Looking back at our past is sometimes the only way we get a full perspective on God's involvement in our lives and where we are today. Take ten minutes to reflect on your week. How do you see God's involvement in the events of your week leading you to this time and place? Record some thoughts to share.

Read and record Psalm 63:7. Let this thought lead you into prayer.

### **DAY THREE**

**Read John 12:20-26**

13a. As today's passage opens, a group of Greeks who had come to worship at the feast approached Philip and asked to see Jesus (verses 20-21). Andrew and Philip delivered this request to Jesus (verse 22). How did Jesus respond (verse 23)?

b. Jesus' response must have seemed mysterious to Andrew and Philip. Why would the presence of foreigners relate to the arrival of Jesus' hour?

14a. After He declared that the Son of Man was to be glorified; Jesus made a paradoxical statement about a kernel of wheat. Complete Jesus' statement in verse 24?

unless a grain of wheat

it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies,

b. How might this statement prefigure Jesus' future?

15a. Again Jesus presented a paradox in verse 25. Complete His statement about those who love their life and those who hate their life in this world.

Whoever loves his life

whoever hates his life in this world

b. This same thought is presented by Jesus in a slightly different way in all of the Gospels. Why do you think this is so important?

16. Complete Jesus' statement about those who serve Him (verse 26).

Whoever serves me

and where I am,

The Father will honor

17. CONNECTION: Some of the ideas in today's passage are difficult to understand and accept. For example, in order to be fruitful, we must die; in order to have eternal life, we must not love our life in this world; in order to be honored, we must be servants. These statements are contrary to the world's thinking, but they are at the crux of Jesus' message. Choose one of the statements above and give an illustration of how you have seen it be true in your life or in the life of someone you love. Share some of your ideas with your group.

Read the following words from the "Prayer of St. Francis" and begin your prayer asking God to help you decrease so He can increase in your life.

*Divine Master, Grant that I may seek not so much to be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for in giving we receive, in pardoning we are pardoned, and in dying we are born to eternal life.*

**DAY FOUR**

**Read John 12:27-36**

18a. In verse 27 Jesus admitted that He was “troubled.” What question did He ask?

b. How did He accept His eternal destiny as our Savior?

19a. When Jesus said “Father glorify your name” a voice from heaven spoke. What did the Father say (verse 28)?

b. According to verse 29, when the crowd heard the voice from heaven they thought it might be thunder or an angel. How did Jesus explain it to them in verse 30?

20a. From verse 31 complete the two things that Jesus told them were about to happen:

Now is the time of judgment

now the ruler of this world

b. Who do you think is the ruler of the world?

21a. Jesus talked about His impending death in a beautiful statement (verse 32). What will Jesus do after He is lifted up from the earth?

b. The crowd had heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever (verse 34). What did they ask Jesus?

22a. In verse 35 Jesus warned the crowd about the coming darkness and counseled them to walk in the light. What else did He say they should do while they have the light and why (first sentence of verse 36)?

b. In the last sentence of verse 36, Jesus left and hid from the crowd. Why do you think He did this?

23. CONNECTION: Jesus knew His death was rapidly approaching. He was not looking forward to suffering but accepted it as His Father's will and as a means to glorify the Father. Each of us faces suffering in our lives and often we struggle to find purpose at these times. Yet those who find purpose in their suffering rise above their circumstances and glorify God by their attitude, acceptance and faith. Think of someone you know or have read about who has done this and, as a result, has impacted your life. Write some thoughts to share with the group.

Washington Phillips, an African American preacher from rural Texas, recorded "Oh Lift Him up, that's all" in 1927 with the following refrain. (If you are curious you can go to iTunes to listen). Let these lyrics lift you up in prayer.

*"Oh, lift Him up that's all Lift Him up in His Word if you'll tell the Name of Jesus everywhere. If you'll keep His Name a-ringin' everywhere that you go He will draw men unto Him."*

#### **DAY FIVE**

**Read John 12:37-43**

24a. Despite all that Jesus had said and all the signs or miracles Jesus performed, many of the people still did not believe in Him. Why was this according to the first part of verse 38?

b. Isaiah the prophet experienced a vision of God's glory and shared it with the Israelites of His time, but they rejected him. In Isaiah 53:1 Isaiah decried the failure of his people to believe his words and foreshadowed the failure of the people of Jesus' time to believe in the Messiah. Record the last two lines of verse 38 which quotes Isaiah 53.

25. In verse 39 John again quoted Isaiah who said that God had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts. Although this seems cruel on God's part, it should not be interpreted to mean that God does not want man to believe or that man does not have the freedom to believe. Record the second half of verse 40.

26. Why did Isaiah foretell these things about Jesus according to verse 41?

**NOTE:** These quotes from Isaiah come from the Greek translation of the Old Testament called the Septuagint, referring to the 70 Hebrew scholars who translated earlier copies of the Hebrew bible. They did this in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century for Ptolemy, the Greek king of Egypt, for inclusion in his library at Alexandria. The Septuagint was used by Jesus and the apostles (and the early Church). It includes the seven books (Deuterocanonical), aka Apocrypha) not recognized by most Protestant denominations.

27. Not all the Jews had hardened hearts; in fact, even some authorities believed. What are two reasons they did not speak up according to verses 42 and 43?

28. CONNECTION: To truly call ourselves followers of Christ, we must not only believe in Him and confess our faith, but also obey Him and live according to His teachings. Hardened hearts prevented many Jews from believing in Jesus, and the desire for approval kept some who did believe in Him from confessing their faith. Many things can get in the way of living a Christian life. In your daily life what has, at times, gotten in your way of fully believing in Jesus, openly confessing your faith, or wholeheartedly obeying Him?

One of the blessings from the end of Mass for the beginning of the liturgical year states “May He give you integrity in the faith, endurance in hope, and perseverance in charity with holy patience to the end.” Meditate on this blessing and let these words lead you into prayer..

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read John 12:44-50**

29a. Today’s lesson begins with Jesus crying out who He is, where He came from and why He came. Complete verses 44 and 45 in which Jesus told them why it was so important that they believe in Him:

Whoever believes in me believes not only in me

And whoever sees me

b. Jesus came into this world as light so that everyone who believes in Him might not remain in darkness (verse 46). Describe another instance in John which refers to “the light.”

30a. In verse 47 Jesus said that He does not condemn those who fail to keep His words, because that is not His purpose. What is His purpose?

b. Those who reject Him and His words will be judged and condemned by those words on the last day (verse 48). Why do you think Jesus' words will condemn some on the last day when He said He came to save us?

31. Again Jesus said He did not speak on His own (verse 48). How did He explain this (verse 49)?

32. Jesus said that His Father's commandment is eternal life. How would you describe "eternal life" to a non-Christian?

33. For the third time in today's lesson, Jesus claimed to speak for another (last sentence of verse 50). How did Jesus claim to speak?

34. CONNECTION: Jesus cried out to the people that He and His Father are one in Spirit and voice. When people saw Him, He wanted them to see the Father, and when they heard His voice, He wanted them to recognize the voice of the Father. We are called to let Christ's light shine through our words and actions so that others come to know Him through us. Think of an ordinary event from your past week, such as a trip to the grocery store or cleaners, or meeting with co-workers. What are some ways in which you reflected Christ to those around you (or wish you had)? Write down a few ideas to share with your group.

In the hymn "Cry the Gospel" we sing that we are the light of the world and we must cry the Gospel with our lives. As you pray today, ask God to continue to let His light and love shine through you.

Read Lesson 12 John 12:1-50 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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