

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH

The Book of John

Lesson 12

## The Plot to Kill Jesus

John 11:45 – 12:11

### REFLECTION

Review John 11:1-44. Jesus said to the crowd at the tomb where Lazarus lie dead, ‘*Take away the stone.*’ At the protest of Martha, Jesus said to her, ‘*Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?*’ (John 11:38-44). What’s hindering you from experiencing the glory of God<sup>1</sup> in your life?

### FOCUS VERSE

*Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did [signs and miracles; the resurrection of Lazarus], believed in Him (John 11:45).*

### SECTION 1 – The Response to Lazarus’ Resurrection

Read John 11:45-57.

1. What were the responses of the crowd that witnessed the resurrection (vs. 45, 46)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

2. What did the religious leaders do in response to the works and signs of their Messiah<sup>2</sup> (vs. 47, 48)?

---

---

3. What questions and comments did they voice in their frustration of Jesus?

vs. 47 \_\_\_\_\_

vs. 48 \_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>1</sup> glory of God: shining forth; divine manifestation.

<sup>2</sup> Messiah: the Christ; prophesied King of the Jews.

vs. 49 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Caiaphas, the high priest, unknowingly prophecy<sup>3</sup> (vs. 49, 50)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was significant about his words (vs. 51, 52)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL

Who do you think inspired Caiaphas, the high priest, to speak those words to the people? What do you learn from that?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What effect did all this discussion have on Jesus (vs. 53, 54)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What feast was drawing near (vs. 55-57)? \_\_\_\_\_ 4

Why were the people in Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_ 5

What was the talk in the city at that time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did the Chief Priest command the people to do (vs. 57)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LOOK DEEPER

The people were in Jerusalem to purify themselves before the Passover. Who was in the midst of them ready to fulfill John the Baptist's words in John 1:29?

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup> prophecy: God's words foretelling of future events.

<sup>4</sup> Passover: celebration of the Hebrew nation's deliverance from the slavery of Egypt; remembering the night when the Angel of Death killed every firstborn in Egypt, but passed over the homes whose doorposts were marked with the blood of the lamb.

<sup>5</sup> purify: to make clean; sanctify; perform rites of purification in preparation for worshiping God during the holy feast days.

How do people in our world today purify themselves, and still reject the spiritual cleansing that Jesus offers through His sacrifice on the cross?

---

---

How do you purify your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

---

## SECTION 2 – Mary and Martha

Read John 12:1-3.

This was the final week of Jesus' life on earth. He was about to finish the work the Father had sent Him to do.

1. How many days until the Passover (vs. 1, 2)? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>

How did Martha honor Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Lazarus? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did Mary worship Jesus (vs. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

## PERSONAL

What is important about each of these forms of worship? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

How will you choose to worship? \_\_\_\_\_

---

## LOOK DEEPER

Compare the earlier dinner party in Luke 10:38-42 to the supper prior to Christ's death in John 12:1-3.

What do you learn from Martha in each? \_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>6</sup> Bethany: located about 2 miles from Jerusalem.

---

What do you observe about the way Jesus responded to Martha (Luke 10:41, 42)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

According to Jesus, what was Martha's problem (vs. 41)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

How is her attitude different in John 12:1, 2? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Where was Mary during the first dinner (Luke 10:39)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

What did Jesus say about her choice (vs. 42)? \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL

Which sister do you most identify with? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sister would you like to be more like? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

## LOOK DEEPER

How does Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and 12:13, 14 teach you to balance your life? \_\_\_\_\_

7

---

<sup>7</sup> fear God: to respond to God in awe, reverence and wonder; to serve Him in purity of action and reject the worship of anything else.

## SECTION 3 – Mary’s Gift

Read John 12:3-8.

1. How did Mary lavish her love on Jesus (vs. 3-5)? \_\_\_\_\_ 8

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the monetary and emotional cost to her? \_\_\_\_\_

9

### PERSONAL

When was the last time you lavished love and worship on Jesus? What did it cost you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How was the whole house affected by Mary’s act of devotion (vs. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### LOOK DEEPER

Read 2 Corinthians 2:15, 16. What affects can our devotion to Jesus have to others around us? Give an example.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who sharply criticized Mary’s high cost of devotion (John 12:4)? What specifically is said about him?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How does Judas mask the real motive of his criticism (vs. 5, 6)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>8</sup> anointed: to oil with perfume; to anoint the head was a sign of honor; the feet a display of devotion. It was the first stage of embalming a dead body.

<sup>9</sup> three hundred denarii: about one year’s wages for a worker.

5. How does Jesus defend Mary (vs. 7, 8)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did Jesus minister to the poor and needy (Matthew 11:1-5)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL

What attitude in Mary's life led her to anoint Jesus for burial when others did not understand? Has the Lord shown you a deep spiritual truth because of your worship of Him? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### LOOK DEEPER

Compare the other accounts of Mary's anointing of Jesus in Matthew and Mark. List any additional information you find.

Matthew 26:6-12:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write Jesus' commendation of Mary. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10

Mark 14:3-9:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write Jesus' commendation of Mary. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>10</sup> memorial: record, reminder.

---

After reading all three accounts of Mary's love gift poured out for Jesus, what specifically touches, encourages and strengthens you?

---

---

---

---

How will it help you in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

---

#### SECTION 4 – The Plot to Kill Lazarus

Read John 12:9-11.

1. Why did a great many Jews come to Bethany (vs. 9)? \_\_\_\_\_

---

2. How did Lazarus' resurrection impact the leaders (vs. 10, 11)? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

---

#### PERSONAL

Lazarus' new life caused many people to seek after Jesus. How has your new life in Jesus impacted people around you? How have they seen Jesus' power working in and through you?

---

---

---

3. What did you learn about Jesus from this lesson? What do you want to do differently in your life because of it?

---

---

---

*Let her alone; she has kept this  
for the day of My burial.*  
John 12:7

If you wish to receive any of the studies on THE BOOK OF JOHN write to:

Somebody Loves You Publishing, 22324 Golden Springs Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
(909) 396-1884 FAX: (909) 396-0553 Email: [slymediagroup@somebodylovesyou.com](mailto:slymediagroup@somebodylovesyou.com)

All Scripture found in this study is from the New King James Bible unless noted otherwise.

Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,

His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

This study may be copied, reproduced, or duplicated with written permission.

© 2004 Prepared by: Somebody Loves You Publishing