

John 12

Chapter 12 of 21 · 50 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany

¹ Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

² There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

³ Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

⁷ Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

⁸ For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

⁹ Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

¹⁰ But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;

11 Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

The Triumphal Entry

12 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,

15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

16 These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

18 For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

Greeks Seek Jesus

20 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

22 Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up

27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

The Unbelief of the People

37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Angel — ἄγγελος (Angelos)

Angel, messenger

The Greek **angelos** (ἄγγελος) means angel or messenger. Angels announced Christ's birth (Luke 2:9-14), ministered to Him (Matthew 4:11), and will accompany His return (Matthew 25:31).

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Confess — ὁμολογέω (Homologeō)

To confess, acknowledge, agree

The Greek **homologeō** (ὁμολογέω) means to say the same thing—agreeing with God about sin or truth. 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins' (1 John 1:9).

Eternal — αἰώνιος (Aiōnios)

Eternal, everlasting

The Greek **aiōnios** (αἰώνιος) denotes eternal or everlasting—unending duration. Believers possess 'eternal life' (John 3:16) now and will dwell with God eternally, while the impenitent face 'eternal punishment' (Matthew 25:46).

Glory — δόξα (Doxa)

Glory, majesty, splendor

The Greek **doxa** (δόξα) means glory, splendor, or magnificence—the radiant manifestation of God's perfection. Christ revealed the Father's glory: 'we beheld his glory' (John 1:14).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Heaven — οὐρανός (Ouranos)

Heaven, sky

The Greek **ouranos** (οὐρανός) denotes heaven—God's throne and the believer's eternal home. Jesus taught His disciples to pray 'Our Father which art in heaven' (Matthew 6:9) and promised to prepare a place there (John 14:2).

Judgment — κρίσις (Krisis)

Judgment, decision

The Greek **krisis** (κρίσις) denotes judgment—evaluation and sentence. All will stand before God's judgment seat (Romans 14:10), and Christ has been appointed Judge of the living and dead (Acts 10:42).

Law — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Prophet — προφήτης (Prophētēs)

Prophet

The Greek **prophētēs** (προφήτης) denotes a prophet—one who speaks forth God's message. Jesus was recognized as 'a prophet mighty in deed and word' (Luke 24:19), fulfilling and surpassing the prophetic office.

Save — σώζω (Sozo)

To save, deliver, heal

The Greek **sozo** (σώζω) means to save—deliverance from sin, death, and judgment. 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved' (Acts 16:31). The word also encompasses physical healing and spiritual wholeness.

Word — λόγος (Logos)

Word, reason, message

The Greek **Logos** (Λόγος) means word, reason, or message—the rational principle underlying reality. John identifies Christ as the eternal Logos: 'In the beginning was the Word' (John 1:1).

CROSS REFERENCES

John 12:1 **Parallel theme:** John 11:1; 11:55; 12:20; Matthew 21:17; Luke 24:50

John 12:2 **Parallel theme:** Mark 14:3; Luke 22:27; Revelation 3:20

John 12:3 **Parallel theme:** John 11:2; 11:28; Luke 7:46. **References Jesus:** John 11:32.

Related: Song of Solomon 1:3

John 12:4 **Parallel theme:** John 13:2; 13:26; Matthew 10:4

John 12:5 **Parallel theme:** Luke 12:33; 18:22

John 12:6 **Parallel theme:** John 13:29; James 2:6

John 12:7 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 26:12. **References Jesus:** Matthew 26:10; Mark 14:6

John 12:8

Parallel theme: John 8:21; 12:35; 13:33; Deuteronomy 15:11; Matthew 26:11; Mark 14:7.

Related: Song of Solomon 5:6

John 12:9 **Parallel theme:** Acts 4:14

John 12:10 **Parallel theme:** John 11:57; Exodus 10:3; Ecclesiastes 9:3; Matthew 2:16; Luke 16:31

John 12:11 **Faith:** John 11:45. **Parallel theme:** John 12:18; Acts 13:45

John 12:13 **Kingdom:** John 1:49; 19:15; Isaiah 44:6; Hosea 3:5; Zephaniah 3:15; Revelation 15:3; 19:16. **Parallel theme:** Revelation 7:9. **Blessing:** Matthew 23:39. **References Lord:** Leviticus 23:40

John 12:14 **Parallel theme:** Zechariah 9:9

John 12:15 **Kingdom:** Zechariah 9:9. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 62:11

John 12:16 **References Jesus:** John 2:22; Acts 2:36; Hebrews 12:2. **Parallel theme:** John 14:26; Luke 24:45; Acts 2:33; Hebrews 8:1. **Glory:** John 7:39; 12:23; Acts 3:13

John 12:17 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 1:2. **Resurrection:** John 12:9

John 12:18 **Parallel theme:** John 12:11

John 12:19 **Parallel theme:** John 3:26; Psalms 22:27; Acts 17:6

John 12:20

Parallel theme: John 7:35; Isaiah 11:10; Mark 7:26; Acts 17:4. **Worship:** Acts 8:27

John 12:21 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 2:2

John 12:23 **Glory:** Isaiah 55:5; 60:9; Matthew 25:31. **Parallel theme:** Mark 14:41

John 12:24 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 72:16

John 12:25

Parallel theme: Ecclesiastes 2:17; Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 14:26; 17:33; Acts 20:24; 21:13. **Love:** Revelation 12:11. **Eternal Life:** Matthew 19:29

John 12:26 **Parallel theme:** John 10:27; 17:24; 1 Samuel 2:30; Psalms 91:15; Romans 1:1; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Galatians 1:10; Colossians 3:24; 1 John 5:3; Jude 1:1

John 12:27 **Parallel theme:** John 12:23; 13:21; Isaiah 38:15; Matthew 26:42; Luke 22:44; Hebrews 2:14. **Salvation:** Hebrews 5:7

John 12:28

Parallel theme: Matthew 3:17; 17:5; 26:42; Mark 1:11; 9:7; 14:36; Ephesians 2:7; 3:10. **Glory:** Ephesians 3:21; 2 Peter 1:17

John 12:29 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 14:2

John 12:30 **Parallel theme:** John 11:42

John 12:31 **Parallel theme:** John 14:30; Genesis 3:15; Matthew 12:28; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; 4:4; 5:19

John 12:32

Parallel theme: John 1:7; 3:14; 6:44; 8:28; Hosea 11:4; Galatians 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2

John 12:33 **Parallel theme:** John 18:32; 21:19

John 12:34

Parallel theme: 2 Samuel 7:13; Psalms 110:4; Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 2:44; 7:14; 7:27; Micah 4:7; Romans 5:18. **Word:** John 10:34

John 12:35

Light: John 8:12; 11:10; 12:36; 12:46; Isaiah 2:5; Ephesians 5:8. **Parallel theme:** John 16:16. **References Jesus:** John 7:33

John 12:36 **Light:** Isaiah 60:1; Luke 16:8; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5. **References Jesus:** John 8:59; 11:54. **Faith:** John 1:7

John 12:37 **Parallel theme:** John 1:11; 15:24; Matthew 11:20; Luke 16:31. **Faith:** John 11:42

John 12:38 **Faith:** Isaiah 53:1; Romans 10:16. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 44:3; Matthew 16:17; Romans 10:20; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Galatians 1:16. **Prophecy:** 2 Chronicles 32:20

John 12:39 **Parallel theme:** 2 Peter 2:14. **Faith:** John 5:44; 10:38

John 12:40

Parallel theme: Psalms 6:2; 41:4; 147:3; Isaiah 6:10; 29:10; Hosea 6:1; 14:4; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; Acts 3:19

John 12:41 **Parallel theme:** John 1:18; Acts 10:43. **Glory:** John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Hebrews 1:3

John 12:42 **Parallel theme:** John 7:13; 9:22; Isaiah 51:7; 57:11; 66:5; Matthew 10:32; Acts 5:41; 1 John 4:2; 4:15. **Faith:** Proverbs 29:25

John 12:43

References God: John 5:44; 8:54; Luke 16:15. **Parallel theme:** John 5:41; 12:26; Matthew 6:2; Luke 19:17; 2 Corinthians 10:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:6. **Resurrection:** 1 Corinthians 4:5

John 12:44

Parallel theme: John 13:20; Matthew 10:40; Mark 9:37. **Faith:** John 5:24; 1 Peter 1:21

John 12:45 **Parallel theme:** John 12:41; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3

John 12:46

Light: John 1:9; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; Psalms 36:9; Matthew 4:16; Luke 2:32; Ephesians 5:14. **Faith:** Acts 26:18. **Darkness:** Isaiah 42:7

John 12:47 **Salvation:** John 3:17; Luke 19:10; 1 John 4:14. **Judgment:** John 12:48

John 12:48

Parallel theme: John 11:24; Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 25:31; Mark 16:16; Luke 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 2:3; 12:25. **Judgment:** Romans 2:16. **Word:** Matthew 21:42

John 12:49 **Word:** John 14:10; 14:31; 17:8; Deuteronomy 18:18. **Parallel theme:** John 3:11; 3:32; 5:30; 8:26; 8:42; 15:15

John 12:50 **Eternal Life:** John 17:3; 1 John 5:20. **Word:** John 6:63; 6:68