

## Discussion Questions & Quotes For March 24 thru 30, 2024

—**John 12:9–11** Now a large crowd of Judeans learned that Jesus was there, and so they came not only because of Him but also to see Lazarus whom He had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus too, for on account of him many of the Jewish people from Jerusalem were going away and believing in Jesus.

—*“Most of those who attended Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem were simply caught up in the excitement of the moment. Jesus fulfilled prophecy that day, but He also wept over the reality that very few people understood what this actually meant. Jesus wasn’t coming to be crowned King, or to conquer the Romans like most of the people wanted. He was coming to make the required sacrifice for sin that would appease God’s wrath.”* —**GAD**

—**Luke 19:41–44** Now when Jesus approached and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “If you had only known on this day, even you, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and surround you and close in on you from every side. They will demolish you—you and your children within your walls—and they will not leave within you one stone on top of another because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

—*“Palm Sunday reminds us that even amid triumph, Jesus had the cross in view, willingly sacrificing Himself for our salvation.”* —**John Piper**

—“Jesus, to the very day, fulfilled Daniel’s prophecy concerning the appearance of the Messiah. Dr. Alva McClain has written, ‘April 6, 32 A.D., therefore, is fixed definitely as the end of the era of the first 69 Weeks; and according to Daniel’s prophecy, it should mark the very day of Messiah’s manifestation as the Prince of Israel.’ Without attempting to enter into the clear but intricate chronological calculations set forth by Anderson in his book, *The Coming Prince* (Pages 95-105), I will simply state his conclusion that April 6, 32 A.D., was the tenth of Nisan, that momentous day on which our Lord, in fulfilment of Messianic prophecy, rode up to Jerusalem on the ‘foal of an donkey’ and offered Himself as the Prince and King of Israel.” —**Alva J. McClain, Daniel’s Prophecy of the Seventy Week**

—*“The cross stands high above the opinions of men and to that cross all opinions must come at last for judgment.”* —**A.W. Tozer**

## —Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Please acquaint yourself with John 12 by reading it carefully, observing the details provided by what’s in the biblical text. John’s presentation is unique in various ways. His goal was to provide accurate insights that help us conclude that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

—**1}** *The dinner party found in John 12:1–11 had four very special guests: Lazarus who had been raised from the grave; Simon who was the host & had been healed from leprosy; Mary who became known for anointing Jesus with expensive perfume; and Jesus Who had performed many signs that attracted people to Him. Please note that Judas, who later betrayed Jesus was also there. When Mary anointed Jesus, she broke with the customs by letting her hair down, and yet what she did seemed to be done in humility & honor. Judas (& the other disciples) objected to her actions by suggesting she was wasting this expensive ointment/perfume. What can we learn from how Judas influenced the others with his complaint? What lessons should we learn from Jesus’ response to these complaints? How does good stewardship relate to this type of extravagant expression of devotion? At what point would/could this type of activity become too extravagant? Finally, since we should worship and honor the Lord in a devoted manner, what are some ways for us to display our loyal & loving devotion to the Lord? How does Jesus’ sacrifice for sin influence our perspective on life?*

—**2}** Many people want to look at the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem as a glorious event. In some ways it was because it fulfilled prophecy. But it was also tragic because most of the crowd changed their loyalty to Jesus because they realized that He wasn’t the type of Messiah they wanted. In other words, they were disappointed by God. Have you ever experienced disappointment with God? What was the source of your disappointment? How did you deal with it?

—**3}** *John’s emphasis thru-out His Gospel account revolves around Jesus coming to rescue sinners from the penalty for sin. That requires His death on the Cross. If someone asks, “Why can’t God just forgive us without killing His Son?” how would you reply?*

—**4}** *Does Jesus’ claim to be The Light mean that there is no light at all in false religions? Jesus said, “I am The Way, The Truth, & The Life.” He also said He is The Light of the world. How should this impact our message for those who need to trust in Christ?*