The Calm before the Storm

John 12:1-19

Introduction:

I. Acceptance by the Family – 12:1-11

A. The Setting – 12:1

1. The Time – 12:1a

“Then, six days before the Passover”

2. The Place – 12:1b

“Jesus came to Bethany, ﻿﻿where Lazarus was ﻿﻿who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.”

Jesus went from Ephraim to Bethany15 miles. It was at the home of Simon the leper (MK 14:1) Mary, Martha and Lazarus were there

B. The Supper – 12:2-11

1. Martha was Working – 12:2a

“So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving;”

Their relationship to Simon must have been close because Mary was serving. Others probably helped – maybe even Mary?

2. Lazarus was Reclining at the Table Eating – 12:2b

“but Lazarus was one of those reclining *at the* *table* with Him.”

Earlier, he was reclining in the tomb. John mentions his death and resurrection.

3. Mary was Worshiping – 12:3-8

a. Her Worship Committed – 12:3

“Mary then took a ﻿﻿pound of very costly ﻿﻿perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

The cost seems too high for a common woman, but Mary may have saved for a long while to have it on hand for some special occasion It doesn’t get any more special than this.

b. Her Worship Criticized – 12:4-6

1). The Complainer – 12:4

“But ﻿﻿Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to ﻿﻿betray Him, ﻿﻿said,”

Note that John is writing this after the fact. The disciples did not know that he was the betrayer until later.

2). His Complaint – 12:5

“Why was this perfume not sold for ﻿﻿three hundred denarii and given to poor *people?*”

300 denarii = a year’s salary for a laborer. Note: Jesus did not dispute that figure.

3). His Cause – 12:6

“Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he ﻿﻿had the money box, he used to pilfer ﻿﻿what was put into it.”

John learned about that later. Of course Jesus knew it at the time.

Note: According to Luke some women: ﻿﻿Mary Magdalene, Joanna the wife of Chuza (Χουζᾶ), ﻿﻿Herod’s ﻿﻿steward, and Susanna, and many others who were giving to the support of Jesus and the 12 out of their private means. (See Luke 8:1-3)

c. Her Worship Commended – 12:7-8

“Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep ﻿﻿it for ﻿﻿the day of My burial.”

This was not the only preparation His body received; Nicodemus ad Joseph of Arimathea asked and received permission to prepare the body for burial. (John 9:38)

“﻿﻿For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.” (12:8)

Our giving is not always according to some “hard and fast” rule.

3. The Witness – 12:9-11

a. The Reality – 12:9

“The ﻿﻿large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, ﻿﻿whom He raised from the dead.”

Lazarus was the exhibit #1 (and only) of Jesus’ greatest and final miracle. But apart from Jesus there would be no Lazarus. In any case, there was a large crowd.

b. The Reaction – 12:10-11

“But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because, ﻿﻿on account of him, ﻿﻿many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.”

Note the difference between this time and last time they were together (Luke.10:38)

Martha asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her instead of sitting with Jesus. Martha is still serving – Mary is still sitting. Martha is saying nothing about help.

But, in between, Lazarus had died and Jesus had raised him from the dead. It’s amazing how our little gripes vanish when we face matters of life and death and see Jesus take care of them. He can take care of the other small, petty things as well, if we don’t get in His way.

II. Acceptance by the Faithful – 12:12-18

A. The Large Crowd – 12:12-13a

1. The Special Day – 12:12

“On the next day ﻿﻿the large crowd who had come to ﻿﻿the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

Jesus’ most powerful and most visible miracle had caught the attention of the people.

2. The Special Deed – 12:13a

“took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet Him.”

These were symbols of victory. Jesus had refused the role of political Messiah, but this seemed to be the proper time.

B. The Loud Chorus – 12:13b

“and *began* to shout, “﻿﻿Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the ﻿﻿King of Israel.”

Hosanna means “Save now” They referred to Him with Messianic titles: The coming One / the King of Israel.

C. The Little Colt – 12:14a

“Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it;”

Riding a donkey is a sign of peace. Otherwise He would be riding a war-horse and leading an army as He will be in Revelation 19.

D. The Lasting Calm – 12:14b-16

“as it is written, “﻿﻿Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

“Fear not” Why should they not fear?

Zechariah 9:9

“Rejoice ﻿﻿greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, ﻿﻿your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. I ﻿﻿will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; The ﻿﻿battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion *shall be* ﻿﻿‘from sea to sea, and from the River (Euphrates) to the ends of the earth.”

Reading Assignment:

Ezekiel 10 - The departure of the Glory, (the presence of God) from the temple and the city and the nation.

Ezekiel 43:1-4 - The return of the Glory.

Matthew 21 - Jesus, the glory, entering Jerusalem by the same route.

The leadership of the nation rejected his ruler ship and crucified Him

“These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus ﻿﻿was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him.” (12:16)

In the upper-room discourse Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would:

1. Guide you into all truth

2. Show you things to come

3. Bring all things to your remembrance.

This last one is the one John was referring to here.

E. The Loyal Converts – 12:17-18

1. Their Testimony – 12:17

“So ﻿﻿the ﻿﻿people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify *about Him*.”

These are the ones who believed in Jesus. They continued to testify about Him. That is what believers do in the New Testament. That is why, in the first few years of the church, there were over 5,000 believers in Judea.

2. Their Triumph – 12:18

﻿﻿“For this reason also the ﻿﻿people went and met Him, ﻿﻿because they heard that He had performed this ﻿﻿sign.”

If they don’t hear the message, they can’t heed the message.

III. Rejection by the Faithless – 12:19

“So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.”

They had the Pharisees talking to themselves. Actually it was one group talking to the other. The ones who wanted to take action against Jesus were talking to the group that wanted to wait awhile.

Conclusion: