

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord

Jesus in John 12

Part 14 of the series – Three Years That Changed the World

A quick review

The Plot to Kill Jesus

John 11:45-57

“Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. “What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation” (John 11:45-48)

- ✓ The bold revelation by Jesus “I am the Resurrection and the Life” (as was the case in his other claims of deity) produced two responses:
 1. Some (many of the Jews) concluded (in this case after witnessing the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead) that Jesus must be the Messiah and they trusted and believed in him.
 2. Others (those who didn’t believe) were confused, hardened in their hearts, and refused to believe.
- ✓ They (the religious leaders) needed to find a way to silence Jesus for good

“Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.” He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. So, from that day on they plotted to take his life.” (John 11:49-53)

- ✓ Caiaphas declares that either Jesus dies, or the nation perishes for Rome had no interest in another Jewish revolt (as happened when the Jews were controlled by Greece).
- ✓ Ironically, the Romans will massacre the Jews in AD 70 when Emperor Titus destroyed Jerusalem, destroyed their temple and scattered the Jews throughout the known world.
- ✓ Unknown to Caiaphas, God intended a different outcome than what Caiaphas prophesied. While Caiaphas intended to preserve the power of the Sanhedrin by seeing to it that Jesus would be killed, the reality became, as God intended, that salvation would come (through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ) to (all who believe) not only the Jews but the Gentiles.

“Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.” (John 11:54)

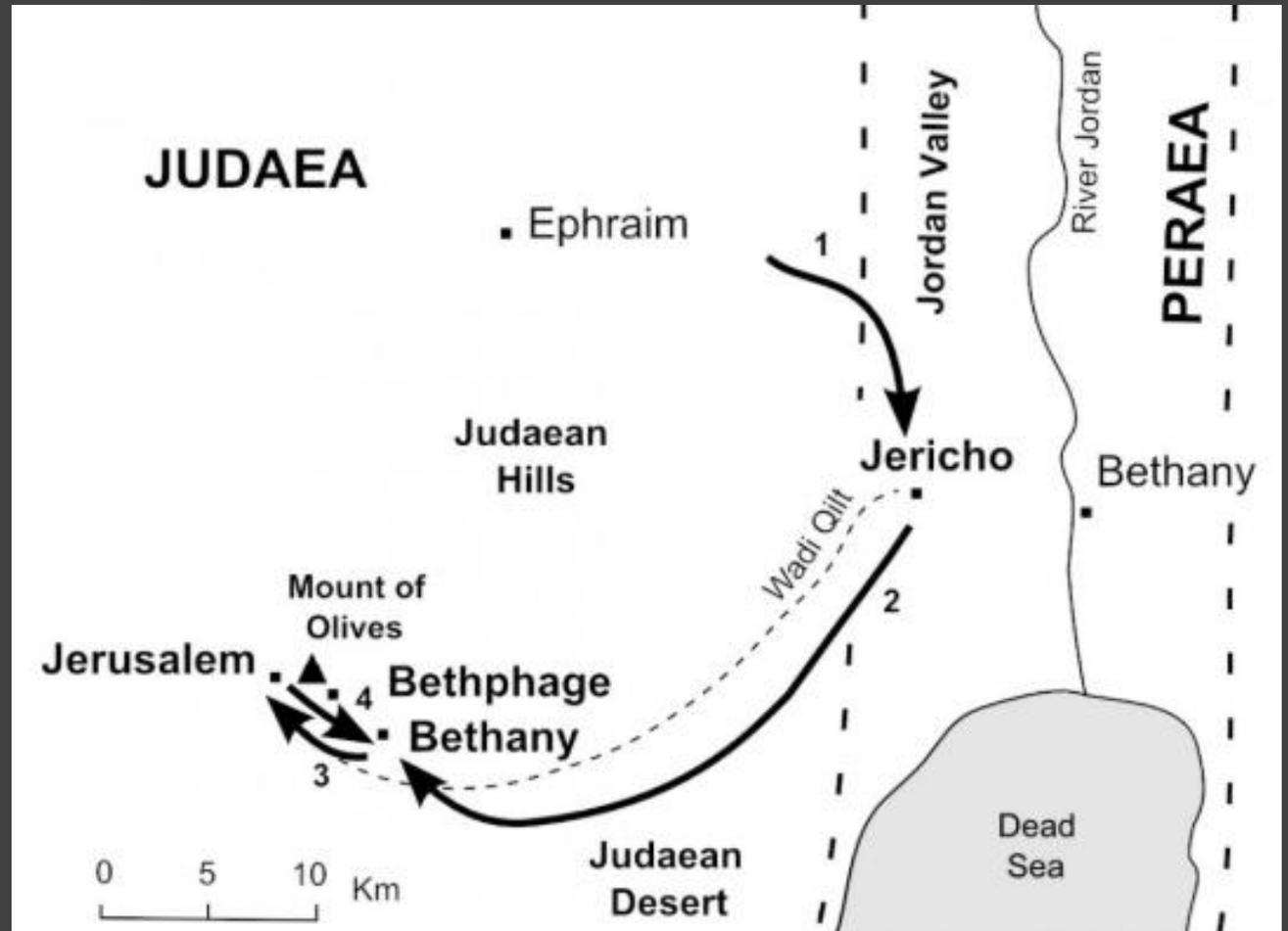
- ✓ Jesus knew that the Sanhedrin was plotting to have him arrested and ultimately killed but it wasn't in God's timing quite yet. There was still more for Jesus to do.
- ✓ We know that Jesus (in his omniscience or all-knowing power) could discern for himself as to what the Sanhedrin was up to. However, many scholars conclude that Nicodemus and or Joseph of Arimathea (both members of the Sanhedrin) may have been sympathetic to Jesus and probably leaning in the direction of believing in him.
- ✓ As such, Jesus took the appropriate action to not allow his life to be taken any sooner than the divine plan of his Father
- ✓ Jesus relocated to a village called Ephraim (4 miles northeast of Bethel and about 12 miles from Jerusalem) and stayed there with his disciples.

“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the festival at all?” **But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.”** (John 11:55-57)

- ✓ This would be the third and final Passover celebration mentioned in John’s Gospel (John 2:13, John 6:4)
- ✓ Jerusalem would have already been crowded even before the Passover celebration began – some estimate that more than a million people packed the city during this time.
- ✓ There was keen interest by those who were there for the Passover. Some were genuinely interested, some would start out with interest and then fade away, while others (those hostile to Jesus) would unite together and cry out – Crucify him!

Jesus returns from the Village of Ephraim to Bethany

“Six days before the
Passover, Jesus came to
Bethany” (John 12:1)



“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead” (John 12:1)

- ✓ We know that after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead that he retreated to a little village of Ephraim (about 12 miles north of Jerusalem) and spent some time there with his disciples. (John 11:54)
- ✓ We know from Luke’s account (Luke 17:11-19) that after leaving the village of Ephraim, Jesus made a brief visit to Samaria and Galilee prior to going to Bethany:

“Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well” (Luke 17:11-19)

“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead” (John 12:1)

- ✓ Other events that take place during Jesus’ travels from Ephraim to Bethany:
 - Jesus teaches the disciples using several parables (Luke 18)
 - Jesus predicts his death as they prepare to enter Jerusalem (Luke 18:31-34)
 - On his way to Jericho (prior to arriving in Bethany), Jesus heals a blind beggar:

”As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” Lord, I want to see,” he replied. Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.” (Luke 18:35-43)

“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead” (John 12:1)

- ✓ Other events that take place during Jesus’ travels from Ephraim to Bethany:
 - While in Jericho (prior to arriving in Bethany), Jesus meets with Zachaeus:

” Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:1-10)



Jesus returns to Bethany

“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

(John 12:1-3)

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- ✓ Jesus would have arrived in Bethany on the Saturday (or perhaps even after sundown on Friday) before the Passover.
- ✓ The dinner was held in the house of Simon the leper (although no longer a leper since he had been healed) and it was a planned gathering to honor Jesus.

“While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head” (Mark 14:3)

- ✓ Lazarus was a guest; Martha was involved in serving the meal, and Mary will anoint Jesus by pouring out her love and honor to Christ her Lord.

*“**But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold, and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages. He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.”** (John 12:4-6)*

- ✓ Note the contrast:
 - Mary’s selflessness
 - Judas’ selfishness
- ✓ Note the facts stated by John:
 - Judas was one of Jesus’ disciples
 - Judas would later betray Jesus
- ✓ These are the first recorded words of Judas and there are no noble motives attributed to Judas. **He was a thief, a traitor and a devil** (John 6:70-71). Judas is an example of the greatest missed opportunity in all of history! (John 17:12, Acts 1:25)

“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.” (John 12:7-8)

- ✓ Normally an anointing is something festive (such as a recognition of a calling to some specific purpose) but in this instance it was in anticipation of his soon coming death and burial – completely prophetic.
- ✓ Later (after Jesus’ crucifixion and burial) Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea will perform a similar application of perfumes in accordance with Jewish burial customs. (John 19:38-40)
- ✓ Had Judas been genuine in his concern, there would have been no sense of urgency for there would always be poor and needy people among them, but Jesus (in physical form) would not always be with them. Judas’ hypocrisy was never more evident than how he responded to Mary’s selfless act.

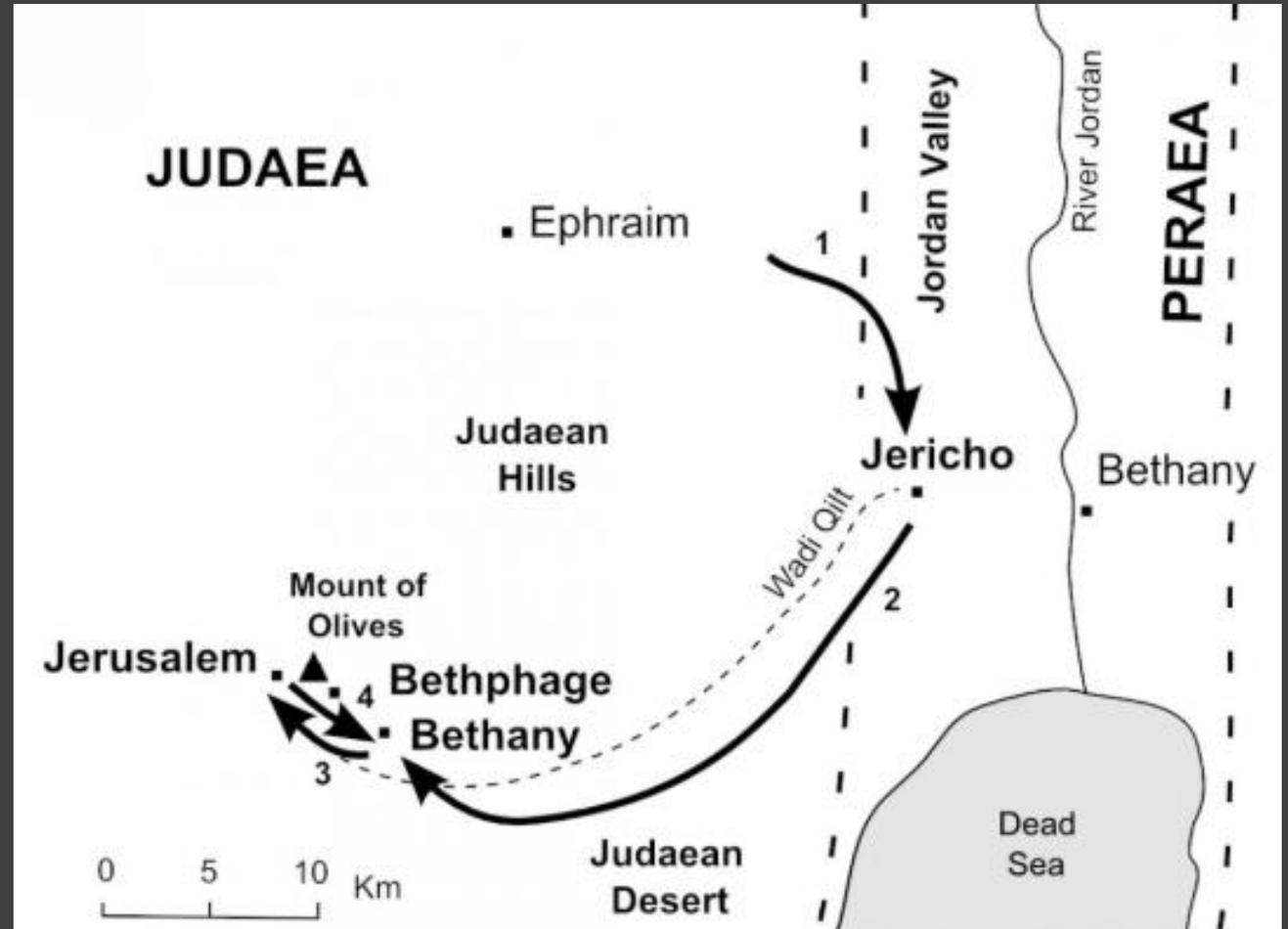
“Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So, the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.” (John 12:9-11)

- ✓ Apparently, a large crowd of Jews (probably a more common group distinctly different than the religious leaders) learn that Jesus was in Bethany.
- ✓ This “curious” crowd wanted to see both Jesus and Lazarus. We don’t know of their true intent. Some may have had hostile intent, others just inquisitive, and others genuinely interested and even believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
- ✓ What became abundantly clear to the religious leaders was that both Jesus and Lazarus must be killed, not only their fear of the Romans but their fear of losing their power and control of the Jewish people.

“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters” (Luke 11:23)

Jesus heads towards Jerusalem

“The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem” (John 12:12)



Noteworthy Items as Jesus traveled from Bethany to Jerusalem

- ✓ The “next day” would have been Monday morning which would have been the day after the supper at Bethany (John 12:1-11)
- ✓ Jesus prepared to enter Jerusalem (on his terms) with the divine intent to bring about the events that would lead to his death, burial and resurrection.

“As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on” (Matthew 21:1-7)



Hosanna

“Blessed is
he who
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Noteworthy Items as Jesus enters Jerusalem

- ✓ This is commonly called the “triumphal entry” where Jesus formally/officially presents Himself to Israel as the Messiah and Son of God.
- ✓ This will infuriate the religious leaders which will set in motion the chain of events that will quickly lead to his death at the precise time that was foreordained by God. This specific date (when Jesus enters Jerusalem declaring himself as the Messiah) was a fulfillment of the prophecy spoken in Daniel 9.

“A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”” (Matthew 21:8-11)

*“The next day the **great crowd** that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. **They took palm branches** and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”.” (John 12:12-13)*

- ✓ This large crowd consisted of the crowd of Jews (John 12:9) who had either seen and or heard of Lazarus being raised from the dead, along with various pilgrims who came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast.
- ✓ Some historical records indicate there might have been more than 1 million people who came to escort Jesus into Jerusalem
- ✓ Ironically, palm branches were not associated with the Passover in the Old Testament but were used in the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:40). However, palm branches became symbolic of victory during the intertestamental period when the Jews recaptured Jerusalem from the Syrians during the Maccabean revolts.

“The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”” (John 12:12-13)

- ✓ It might have been perceived by the crowd (perhaps they hoped) that Jesus would prove to be the promised Messiah that (they thought) would liberate them from Roman rule and domination and establish the promised kingdom (II Samuel 7:1-16)
- ✓ Jesus was their king, but their deliverance would come later when he is nailed to a cross for the sins of the world and raises from the dead, ascends to heaven, and awaits his final return to rule and reign as promised.
- ✓ Hosanna (means “save now, I pray” or Help, I pray)

“The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord, we bless you” (Psalm 118:24-26)

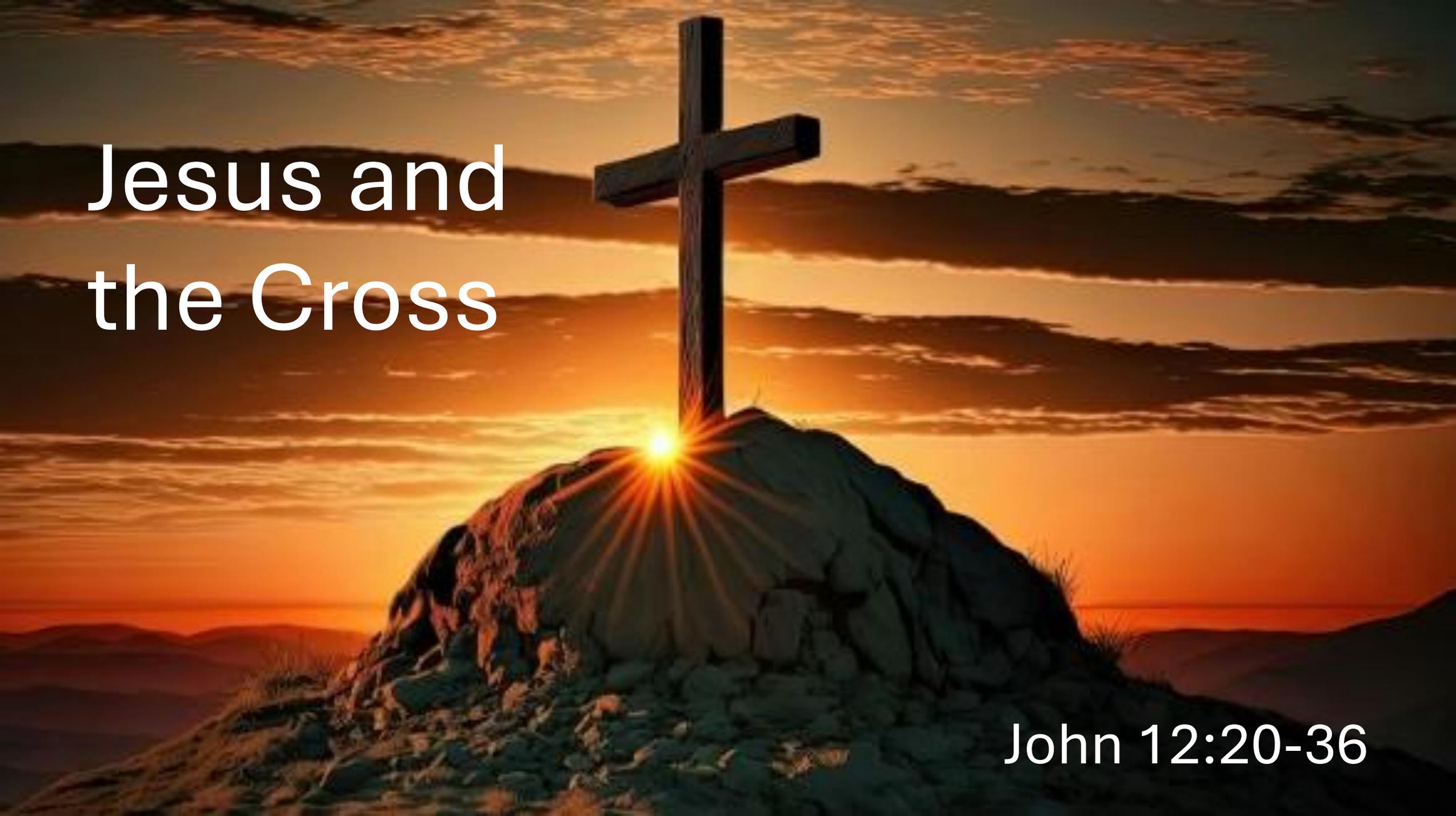
“Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him” (John 12:14-16)

- ✓ The donkey (not a war horse) was a sign of peace not war. Jesus was indeed their king but not the type of king many in the crowd had hoped for.
- ✓ The disciples lacked the perspective of the Cross and the Resurrection, but all of this will change for them once the Holy Spirit indwells them.

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” (John 16:12-15)

*“Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. **Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.** So, the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!” (John 12:17-19)*

- ✓ We don't really know the spiritual condition of this crowd. Some could have been casual observers, some could have been genuine in their pursuit of truth, and yet others (probably many) could have just been along for the ride with no true spiritual perception or interest in believing in Jesus as the Messiah.
- ✓ The Pharisees on the other hand were deeply troubled at the popularity of Jesus and this all by itself made it more difficult for them to have Jesus silenced.
- ✓ Ultimately, it will be revealed that many of those who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem will later shout “crucify him” because they never truly believed!

A wooden cross stands on a rocky mound. The sun is setting directly behind the base of the cross, creating a bright starburst effect. The sky is filled with horizontal bands of orange and yellow clouds. The overall scene is serene and evocative.

Jesus and the Cross

John 12:20-36

“Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.” (John 12:20-22)

- ✓ The fact that John mentions the Greeks is significant as the Greeks were known for being **“seekers of truth”**. Many Greeks were “God-fearers” although many didn’t fully understand the One True God. They would often attend the Jewish feasts to learn of their God and often became what is referred to as Jewish proselytes. They would abandon their pagan beliefs and worship the true God.
- ✓ There is no record that Jesus ever spoke with this group of Greeks but the fact that John includes it in this narrative might point to what Jesus will instruct the disciples to do after he rises from the dead; ***“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”*** (Matthew 28:18-20)

“But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor” (John 12:23-26)

- ✓ This has always been the plan of God – to reach all people (Jews and Gentiles) with the good news that the Savior of the world has come. The Greeks who were there to see Jesus, confirmed that “the hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified”. For Jesus, death was His means of entry into glory.
- ✓ Jesus’ willingness to die for others in obedience to the Father brought him glory
- ✓ This is a significant shift of the narrative that Jesus has previously shared about his death. In all prior discussions on this topic Jesus spoke of it not yet being time but now and in all future references to his death he shares that it is imminent.

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- ✓ Death is a way to life and in the case of Jesus, his death will lead to glory and life, not just for himself but for all those who believe in Him
- ✓ **This is the way to life:**
 - Have no concern for yourself (don't be self serving)
 - Rather than love the empty things of this world (empty idols, distractions, all things evil), instead make Jesus Christ your first priority and die to self.
 - To serve Jesus means to follow him and obey him even unto death
- ✓ These words apply to all believers (Jews and Gentiles, Ephesians 3:1-7)

*“**Now My soul is troubled**, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.” Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him. Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake” (John 12:27-30)*

- ✓ Why was Jesus in such anguish (his soul was troubled):
 - Although there was joy in that Jesus’ death brought life to those who believe in Him, the cross brought the shame of sin (not his but ours)
 - Jesus knew what he was about to face on the cross which would briefly separate him from the Father

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” Hebrews 11:1-2)

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- ✓ Jesus had no intention of deviating from God’s eternal plan of redemption which required Jesus to die as a once and final sacrifice for sin.

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world” (1 John 2:2)

- ✓ Jesus essentially prays the same prayer that he offers in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42) — *“And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done”*

*“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.” **Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”** Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him. Jesus answered and said, **“This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake”** (John 12:27-30)*

- ✓ This was the third recorded audible voice of God during the ministry of Jesus
 - At the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:17)
 - At the transfiguration (Matthew 17:5)
 - Here just less than one week before Jesus will be crucified (John 12:28)

- ✓ Although the voice was misunderstood by many of those who were present, the purpose of the audible voice of God was to reassure the disciples that Christ’s impending death on the cross in no way signified his disapproval. **It was His plan.**

“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die. The people answered Him, ***“We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”*** (John 12:31-34)

- ✓ Upon the death and resurrection of Jesus, Satan (“the ruler/prince of this world”) will lose his power and control (sin and death) that he has over people.
- ✓ Sin and death will be defeated and those who believe in Jesus will be delivered out of spiritual darkness and slavery to sin

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14-15)

- ✓ Those who heard Jesus’ words were perplexed for they couldn’t fully grasp how Jesus could die (he spoke of his crucifixion) and yet be their deliverer/Messiah

*“Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. **Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.**” When he had finished speaking, **Jesus left and hid himself from them**” (John 12:35-36)*

- ✓ The time for Jesus public ministry is was almost concluded and he would only be with them “physically” for just a little longer.
- ✓ Jesus was the “light” of the world, and it would seem it would be easier to believe while Jesus was physically present with them.
- ✓ To believe in the “Light” (that is Jesus) gave them the right to be called the “sons of light”; ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”*** (John 1:12)

“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7)

Other Noteworthy Events that occur before the Passover Celebration

- ✓ ***Jesus clears the temple*** (Mark 11:12-25, Matthew 21:12-22, Luke 19:45-48)
- ✓ ***Jesus' authority is questioned*** (Mark 11:27-33, Matthew 21:23-27, Luke 20:1-8)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches the Parable of the two sons*** (Matthew 21:28-32)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches the Parable of the tenants*** (Mk 12:1-12, Matt 21:33-46, Luke 20:9-19)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches the Parable of the Wedding Banquet*** (Matthew 22:1-14)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches on paying taxes to Caesar*** (Mk 12:13-17, Matt 22:15-22, Luke 20:20-26)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches on Marriage and the Resurrection*** (Mark 12:18-27, Luke 20:27-40, Matthew 22:23-33)

Other Noteworthy Events that occur before the Passover Celebration

- ✓ ***Jesus teaches on the Greatest Commandment*** (Mark 12:28-34, Matthew 22:34-40)
- ✓ ***Jesus warns the Religious Leaders*** (Matthew 23:1-36, Mark 12:37-40, Luke 20:45-47)
- ✓ ***Jesus predicts the fate of Jerusalem*** (Matthew 23:37-39)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches on the signs of the end of the age - sometimes called the Olivet Discourse*** (Mark 13:1-23, Matthew 24:1-28, Luke 21:5-24)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches on the signs of his return*** (Mk 13:24-37, Matt 24:29-51, Luke 21:25-38)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches the parables of the ten virgins*** (Matthew 25:1-13)
- ✓ ***Jesus teaches on the parable of the talents*** (Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27)

Other Noteworthy Events that occur before the Passover Celebration

- ✓ *Jesus teaches on Separating the Sheep and the Goats* (Matthew 25:31-46)
- ✓ *The disciples prepare for the Passover* (Mk 14:12-17, Matt 26:17-20, Luke 22:7-14)
- ✓ *Jesus expounds on the unpreparedness and unbelief of the Jews* (John 12:37-50)

“But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore, they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.” These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him” (John 12:37-41)

Belief vs Unbelief

John 12:37-50

“But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore, they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.” These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him” (John 12:37-41)

- ✓ It's sad to see such a wasted opportunity – they saw the signs (miracles, wonders and healings) and yet they still did not believe in Jesus.
- ✓ They constantly rejected God's revelation, and their punishment was blindness and deadened/hardened hearts (very similar to Pharaoh). They would not believe therefore they could not believe.
- ✓ In similar fashion during the end times there will be those who openly reject God; ***“They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him”*** (Revelation 16:9)

“Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God. Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness”

(John 12:42-46)

- ✓ There were those religious leaders who did believe in Jesus but (at least for now) they didn't openly confess him. Only God knows their hearts and over time their faith will show itself to be genuine or not.
- ✓ Jesus clarifies that He and the Father are One and to believe in Him is the same as believing in the Father.
- ✓ Jesus came to lead people out of Satan's kingdom of darkness and into God's kingdom of love and light. ***“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind”*** (John 1:4)

*“If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. **For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So, whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say”** (John 12:47-50)*

✓ **Jesus is the Word and the one in whom we are to believe in:**

*“In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God**. **He was with God in the beginning**. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind**” (John 1:1-4)*

*“**The Word became flesh** and **made his dwelling among us**. We have seen his glory, the glory of the **one and only Son, who came from the Father**, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14)*

✓ **To reject the Word is to abide in death, but to obey the Word is to gain eternal life**

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.**” (John 3:16-18)*