



The Misunderstood Kingdom
John 12:20-31

Do not come to be _____ John 12:20-21

1. Come to _____ John 12:23

2. Come to _____ John 12:23-26

3. Come to _____ John 12:27-28

4. Come to _____ John 12:30-31

Study Notes March 25, 2018

The Misunderstood Kingdom John 12:20-33

Because of an amazing miracle, Jesus became a legend in Bethany and beyond. Raising Lazarus from the dead, as John records in John 11:43, elevated Jesus' status among the people. The fame resulting from that miracle alone basically ended Jesus' public ministry as the Pharisees put out a public order to have Jesus arrested if seen. John 12 begins with this phrase: "Six days before Passover," which places the unfolding events and our passage this week within the week leading up to Good Friday. It is unimaginable to think about Palm Sunday happening in the same seven day period as Good Friday. It is helpful to realize how much of each of the four Gospels are dedicated to this one week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry.

1. As you step back and look at this week, why did the Jews celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread? See Luke 22:1, Exodus 12:5-10 and Deuteronomy 16:4-8.
2. As you look at the story we know as the main event of Palm Sunday, what were the people saying about Jesus' true identity as He rode on a donkey?
See John 12:12-15.
3. The people really said words that fulfilled prophecy. Read John 12:16. Given the disciples' uncertainty, what level of faith and understanding did the people likely have at this point?

4. As you read John 12:21, what is interesting about the Greek visitors' request? What is it that they want?
5. The Greek visitors want something and the Pharisees also want something with Jesus (see John 11:57). How does all of this parallel what the Jewish people have been commanded to do with a lamb all week during Passover? See Deuteronomy 16:2-3, John 1:29 and Hebrews 9:14, 28.
6. In John 12:23 & 27, Jesus refers to "the hour" in the same breath he speaks of the Son of Man being glorified. How do you understand the activity of the Kingdom of God in "the hour"?
See also Revelation 5:8-10.
7. How do you understand the brief parable in John 12:24? In addition, how would you explain Jesus' two statements in John 12:25-26?
8. In John 12:24-26, how does Jesus explain that the Kingdom of God operates? How is it unlike any other kingdom of the world?
9. As Jesus explains what is going to happen in John 12:31, what does he mean when he says, "now is the time for judgment" and "now the prince of this world will be driven out?" Are these two things happening at the same time? What does John 12:32-33 have to do with those two things?
10. What can you do this week to appreciate the Kingdom of God and to submit to the rule of the King of Kings?