

# Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 39

## Lesson 39 – Approaching & Entering Jerusalem; The Greeks; Belief and Unbelief

### Background:

When Jesus returned to Jerusalem, He based Himself in Bethany, just outside the city. There He stayed with Martha, Mary and Lazarus, who He had raised from the dead. From this location He travelled in and out of Jerusalem where He visited the temple and gave some of His final teachings before His death.

**Read:** [John 12:1-50](#)

### Read the Following Quote:

“Martha busies herself with the duties of a hostess and Mary makes an unusual gesture of devotion to Jesus. Imported from North India, the perfume was precious indeed and the anointing was extravagant. A denarius was one day’s wage, and this was worth three hundred...When Mary lets down her hair, she strictly breaks Jewish convention – women never did this in public. But this is simply more extravagance, justified because no devotion to Jesus can be excessive.” [Gary M Burge](#)

### Questions:

Was Mary’s devotion to Jesus excessive? Is it possible to be too devoted to Jesus?

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### Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [John 12:1-11](#)

### Jesus in Bethany

1. Where was Jesus? What day was it? What type of event was taking place? Why do you think He visited this house? What does this tell you about the kinds of relationships Jesus had?
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2. Describe the roles of Martha, Lazarus and Mary. What do verses 2-3 tell us about their actions and personalities of the three family members? Who do you think you are most like?
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3. What does Judas think about what has taken place? What does Jesus think about Mary's actions? What does this tell you about their personalities and character? (verses 4-8) If Mary's actions were not culturally appropriate, why does Jesus not criticize her? How can we best show our devotion to Jesus today?
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4. What do the local people and the Pharisees think of Jesus at this point in the story? If many believed in Jesus because of the resurrection of Lazarus, what might it take for people to believe today?
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## The Triumphant Entry [John 12:12-19](#)

5. What did Jesus do the following day? Who greeted Him on the way and what did they do and say? Who did these people seem to think Jesus was? Were they right? How could they know?
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6. Jesus fulfilled two prophecies on this day. What were they and where in the Bible can you find them? Why is it important that Jesus was fulfilling prophecies? Did the disciples understand?
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7. Verses 17-19 help us understand what was happening more clearly. Who were some of the "pro-Jesus" people in the crowd? What were they doing with the news? Who were the "anti-Jesus" people in the crowd? What did they believe?
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## The Greeks Meet Jesus [John 12:20-36](#)

8. Why did a group of travelers come to Jerusalem? Where were they from, who did they talk with and who did they want to meet? (verses 20-22) What can we learn from the example of these men? Does it surprise you that people from other lands would want to meet Jesus?
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9. Think about the response of Jesus. (verses 23-26) What is He teaching about Himself and about the requirements He is placing on His followers?

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10. Describe what happens in verses 27-33. What do they tell us about Jesus' humanity and His deity? Why does Jesus pray here? What do the people think they hear? What does Jesus' claim His "lifting up" will accomplish? What did the people believe about the Messiah and the Son of Man?

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11. What does Jesus teach about light? How can we become children of the light? What happens to those who choose not to walk in the light?

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## Unbelief [John 12:37-50](#)

12. How did most of the people respond to Jesus? Did this fulfill the words of the prophet Isaiah? Why did the Jewish leaders not believe? (verses 37-43)

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13. Who does Jesus say we are trusting if we trust Him? How does this make you feel? (verses 44-50) How can we escape living in darkness? What happens to those who reject Jesus? What leads to eternal life?

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## Suggested Prayer:

*Lord, teach us to trust in Jesus and walk in His light. We thank you for His sacrificial death for us and the certainty of eternal life in Him. Help us to understand more fully what it means to follow Jesus on a daily basis. Give us a glimpse of His glory that we might be encouraged to continue to walk in faith.*

## For Further Reading:

[Who Was Mary of Bethany in the Bible?](#)

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