

## JOHN - CHAPTER 11

1. From verses 21-28, give the steps of belief which Martha took in confident confession of her faith in Jesus.
2. What difficult decision did Martha have to make in order to prove her active faith in Jesus and to cooperate with Him before Lazarus could be raised? (See verses 39-41)
3. What reason does Jesus give for praying in public to His Father before raising Lazarus? (See verses 41-42)
4. What were the different effects of this miracle on those who witnessed it? How does verse 40 apply to us today? (See verses 40-54)
5. Why was the Sanhedrin upset about the reaction of the people? (See verse 48) What was their main concern?

## JOHN - CHAPTER 11

In chapter 11 we see what many people consider to be Jesus' greatest miracle. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed where He was for two more days. Our Lord never yielded to human pressure so that He was hurried, worried, or tense. He knew the will of His Father and was prepared for a greater work than would have been accomplished if He had immediately gone to heal Lazarus. Sometimes what we consider a "good" solution or idea becomes the enemy of what is the best solution from God. Verse 4 teaches us that God's answers give Him glory and are therefore ultimately in our best interest also. Do you wait on the Lord's will and timing in your life?

To walk by day (as used in John 1:1) is to walk by God's will. If you have committed your life to Christ, it is not dangerous to live by God's will, for no one can touch those who are in His will. What a comfort to know our sovereign God is in control, and has our days numbered.

In this chapter we see the devotion and courage of Thomas. Are we as willing as "doubting Thomas" to follow Jesus even if it means our lives are affected? In verse 22 Martha shows her trust in Jesus when she says, "even now God will give you what you ask." Jesus then reveals Himself to Martha saying, "I am the resurrection and the life."

In verse 33-35 we see that Jesus was grieved and angry at what sin and death had brought into this world. ("Deeply moved" in the Greek translation means anger.) Jesus was angry at the consequences of sin seen in Lazarus' death and the mourners' grief. It was because of sin that death entered the world. It is by the blood of Jesus that it is conquered. (Look at Hebrews 2:14-15)

The Lord always involves someone in His work. Martha had to risk personal embarrassment by rolling away the stone from her dead brother's grave in order to obey Jesus. Jesus wanted her complete cooperation. "Believe and you will see the glory of God," Jesus told her. Though she did not know what would happen, she did believe His promise.

Imagine the scene as Lazarus walked over to his friend Jesus! Lazarus' life was not his own anymore. (See Ephesians 4:22-24) Each of us has been bought with a price, the blood of our Savior. We who believe in Christ have a new life. To fully live that life, it is essential to take off the bandages of the grave (holding on to the guilt of past sin). When Jesus sets you free, you are free indeed!

The raising of Lazarus further divided the people into two groups, those who believed that Jesus was the Messiah and those who refused to believe.

## JOHN - CHAPTER 12

1. This chapter is divided into four parts. Try to give the main idea or theme of each section (1) John 12:1-11 (2) John 12:12-19 (3) John 12 :20-36 (4) John 12:37-50. (Example: John 12:1-11 As Mary shows her love for Jesus, Judas displays his resentment.)

2. What risk and cost did Mary take in showing her love to Jesus?

3. Why was Lazarus' life or testimony so powerful in the Jewish community? Why do you think the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus?

4. From verses 25-26, what difficulties and blessings are present for the person who chooses to follow and serve Jesus?

5. What does John 12:35-36 mean to you personally?

## JOHN - CHAPTER 12

The raising of Lazarus brought our Lord's ministry to its climax. There is now a transition from Jesus' public revelation to the world to a period of personal and individual considerations of the claims of Jesus.

In each of our lives a point of decision is inevitable. Tentative belief must become true commitment just as unbelief must also commit. The key phrase in this chapter is "the hour has come." Mary anoints Jesus for His burial, now He retreats to prepare His disciples for the coming days.

It is six days before Passover. The resurrection of Lazarus had caused people to come to Jesus. Mary had seen more deeply than most the full extent of His love in the raising of her brother. Mary shows her devotion to Jesus in an extravagant expression of love and honor. She did not count the cost of money or embarrassment as she anointed Him with perfume. The human heart of Jesus was deeply touched by her act of kindness. Judas' response was quite the opposite. He tried to crush Mary's spirit of love and sacrifice with his rebuke. He also demonstrated his own feelings that Jesus was unworthy of such an extravagant gift. His greed and selfish ambition would soon be revealed. He knew that under such a master He would never get rich or have the position of authority he expected.

Never had Jesus been so popular. Crowds claimed Him king. The outside world was seeking Him (the Greeks). Only He and His Father knew that it was in His death that He would accomplish His purpose: payment for our sins, resurrection to His proper place of authority at the right hand of God, and the giving of the Holy Spirit to all who would believe.

It is not God's will that any should perish. (see 1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9.) However, only two choices are open to us. Either you see yourself and your sins judged and forgiven by the cross, or refuse to believe in your need for a savior. Those who reject Jesus either see themselves without sin, do not care that they sin, or believe they can justify their sin. They do not seem to understand that to refuse the words of Jesus as found in the New Testament is to side in judgment against Him with all the unbelievers of every age.

The prince of this world is a title given by Jesus to the devil. The battle lines were drawn. Jesus was prepared and ready to follow the will of

His Father which would lead to the cross. Satan egotistically thought that he would be able to defeat Jesus. When Jesus died upon the cross, our sins were laid upon Him. Satan lost his power over people who come to put their faith in Jesus because of the work that was accomplished at the cross.

Each of us will face our hour of decision. Unfortunately many people today allow complacency to be their decision. They end up rejecting Jesus by choosing not to chose. To have salvation we must be fully identified with Christ's sacrifice at the cross. The fact that He died cleanses me of my sin. To fully surrender is to identify with Christ's way of life, that is, God's will not mine. It is a form of death in that you die to your will and live for Christ. To many this is a very scary concept for we imagine that we will lose our individuality and our personality will no longer be ours. In truth our death to self does not result in losing who we are. Actually we are completed in Jesus to be the fully developed person God created!

The most powerful thing in our life is opportunity. It is also the most irretrievable. It is a wonderful gift from God to be able to recognize one's "hour" when it comes. Pray to Jesus that He will give you a clearness of vision and a heart willing to seek and serve the Lord. Our ultimate goal in life is to work not for the things of this world, but the things of God. We must deliberately choose to appropriate, by faith, the life and death of Jesus. Unfortunately many choose not to do so. The reason for their choice is spelled out clearly in John 12:43 "for they loved the praise from men more than the praise from God."

## JOHN - CHAPTER 13

1. What lesson did you learn from Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples?

Remember also that Jesus washed the feet of Judas knowing who he was and what he would do.

2. Explain what you think Jesus meant in John 13:7.

3. What is the command that Jesus gives us in John 13:34-35? How could you implement this command?

4. How do the words remorse, regret, and genuine repentance differ to you?

5. How could you serve others this week in the manner Jesus exhibited?

## JOHN - CHAPTER 13

This chapter begins just before Passover. In this chapter Jesus will teach his disciples the full extent of His love. When Jesus humbled Himself to wash His disciple's feet, it was in full knowledge of His own greatness. Jesus demonstrates the concept of servant leadership. In eastern culture it is the duty of the slave to remove the sandals. There wasn't a servant present to do that duty. Jesus waited to see who would take the leadership role of service to others. When none of the disciples took on the task, Jesus took the place they deemed beneath them. In verses 6-10 Peter didn't submit in obedience to what he couldn't understand. Peter hadn't yet experienced the principle of being washed by Jesus at the cross for the cleansing of his sin. It is the washing of our sin that we must seek from Him. It is only because of what He has done for us at the cross, His cleansing us from our sins, that enables us to humbly serve others in our home, church and community.

In the Jewish custom, eating was a sign of true friendship. Yet there was one disciple who was a hypocrite (13:18), thief (12:6), and soon to be, traitor. Judas had deceived everyone but Jesus. Judas believed Jesus was the political Messiah that most of the Jewish world had been expecting. He thought that when Messiah became King, he (Judas) would have a position of power and authority. Judas didn't care about the poor. (John 12:5-6.) He no longer desired to be associated with this group that was never going to assume the authority he wanted. He knew the Jewish leaders were looking for Jesus and His disciples. Judas decided to save his own life, but lost it for eternity. There is a great difference between remorse and repentance. Judas felt remorse at what he had done, but he never repented (to ask for forgiveness). When Judas took his own life in Matthew 17:1-10 he demonstrated his unbelief, for at that moment he closed the door to reconciliation. After Judas left, Jesus could instruct the disciples in how they were to live, to be a witness to the truth, and bear fruit in a hostile world. John 13:31-17:26 are the last words of Jesus to His disciples. Jesus calls the disciples "my children" in 13:33 to show His deep affection and yearning for them. Jesus condemned false human glory in verses 37-38. Jesus wanted them to understand that true belief in Him actually involves making Him Lord of one's life.