

Topic: Keep Life for Eternity

John 12:

By Jyh-tong Teng

November 28, 2021

**Reference: The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Editors John F.
Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, Victor Books, 1984**

Overview of Jesus' Ministry (as seeing from the Gospel of John)

- **Start of Jesus' Ministry (1:19-51)** – Forerunning of ministry – John, the Baptist; Recruiting of disciples
- **Public Ministry of Jesus (2: - 12:)** – Miracles and instructions: started with changing water into wine
- **Week of Passion (Week of Holy 耶穌受難週)** (13: - 19:) – Jesus' preparation of His disciples
- **Resurrection of Jesus (20:1-29)**

Overview of John Chapter 12

- From “passing over” (**when I see the blood, I will pass over you***) to the Father’s command (**following His words and obeying His order**); **the latter leads to *eternal life*.**
- Deuteronomy 32:47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your *life*. By them you will ***live long*** in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”
- .

- *** No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt** – Passing over the forces of destruction vs. the Lord “hit forcefully the land of Egypt” on the eve of the Exodus.
- When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, **he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway**, and **he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down**. (Exodus 12:23)

The anointing (12:1-8) – Jesus anointed at Bethany

- The anointing by Mary's pouring of the expensive and pure nard expressed **her love and thanks to Jesus for Himself** and **for His restoring Lazarus to life**.
- Recall that **the purpose of God's creation is love** – to love, to be loved, and to love one another mutually.
- **The anointing was in anticipation of His burial** – living by God's Word, Jesus knew that as the **suffering Servant**, **He must endure pain, die, and be buried** – indicating that Jesus upcoming death on the cross was to show **His sacrificial love for human**.

- Mary caught the **opportunity** to show her love to Jesus on earth, and the opportunity was limited. “You will not always have Me,” that is, here on earth. The **anointing** and the subsequent **going to the cross** demonstrated the **mutual love** between Mary and Jesus – fulfilling God’s purpose of creation.

The triumphal entry (12:9-19) – Jesus came to Jerusalem as King

- From all over the country, people came to the Passover feast. **Many sought out Jesus and also Lazarus, because Lazarus had been restored; as a result, many Jews believed in Jesus.**
- So, the chief priest planned to kill two men – Jesus and Lazarus!
- What a contrast – **Jesus brought life** while the **chief priest was trying to impose deaths.**

- **Waving their palm branches**, symbols of **victory**, the people were shouting Hosanna – meaning “Please save” or “Save now,” as described in Psalm 118:25 – LORD, **save us**! LORD, **grant us success**!
- Quoting Psalm 118:26 (**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.**), **they ascribed messianic titles to Him**: He who comes the King of Israel.

- “I believe that you are the **Messiah** [a leader who has the **power** to solve the world's problems], the **Son of God, who is to come into the world,**” said Martha (John 11:27)
- Jesus stated in Matthew 28:18, “**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” **All authority → Omnipotent**
- .
- Jesus’ riding into the city on a young donkey was **a sign of peace.**

The Greeks at the Feast (Jesus Predicted His Death)

(12:20-36)

- **The Greeks** were wanderers of the ancient world and the **seekers of the truth**.
- Their coming was symbolic of the coming of **Gentiles** to worship God through Christ.

The Greeks – Seekers of the Truth

- Acts 17: 22-23 ²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that **in every way you are very religious.**
- ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found **an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.**
- So you are **ignorant of the very thing you worship**—and **this is what I am going to proclaim to you.**

Ask; Seek; Knock

- **Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)
- Revelation 3:20 Here I am! **I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.** → May God come into my life – come into my heart
- 啟 3:20 看哪，我站在門外叩門，若有聽見我聲音就開門的，我要進到他那裏去，我與他，他與我一同坐席。

The Law of Sacrifice

Reference: The Maxwell Leadership Bible by John C. Maxwell and Tim Elmore, Thomas Nelson, 2014

- The law of sacrifice – Jesus **gave up** (**His divine rights and His life**) **to go up** (**to become ruler of the universe**) permanently. – **death is necessary for a harvest.**
- For Jesus, death was His means of **entry into glory**. Jesus willingness to die for others' sins in **obedience to the Father** brought Him glory – **death is necessary for a harvest** by having a kernel of wheat “dying” in the ground and producing many seeds.
-

- **Jesus came** to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- To “hate his Life” means to be so **committed to Christ** that he **has no self-centeredness, no concern for himself**.
-

- On the other hand, **the man who loves his life will lose it.**
-
- Anything in life can become an **idol** including goals, interests, and loves (*noting the priorities*). A **believer** should **undergo a spiritual death to self.**
-
- **Idol** (偶像・明星): someone [or something] that is **admired and respected very much** *[to the degree of replacing Jesus Christ]*

- Being **a servant of Jesus** requires **following Him**. His **true disciples** (those who serve Him) **follow Him in humiliation** and **later in honor or glory**.
-
- **Disciple**: a person who **believes** in the ideas and principles of someone famous and **lives** the way that person does or did

- ²⁷“Now **my soul is troubled**, and what shall I say? ‘Father, **save me from this hour**’? **No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.**²⁸ Father, ***glorify your name!***”
- Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” **Jesus willingly expressed His submission to the will of the Father** in the words, “Father, glory your name!” So also **believers in difficulty should stand and embrace His will – in spite of conflicting emotions.**
-
- The Father then spoke from heaven **confirming His working in Jesus both in the past and in the future.**

- “The prince of this world (i.e., Satan) will be driven out” means that **Satan’s power** over people by **sin and death** was defeated and people can now be delivered out of Satan’s domain of **spiritual darkness and slavery to sin**.
-
- sin and death → spiritual darkness and slavery to sin
vs. **holiness and life → spiritual love/light and obedience to God**

- ³⁵Then 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.
-
- **He is the Light for the world**, but the day of His public ministry was almost over. **The darkness of night is coming** in which evil powers would hold sway (i.e., control) over people.
-
- **The man who walks in the dark** means an unbeliever who stumbles through life without knowing what life is all about. **Believing in Jesus** is to trust in the Light (i.e., Jesus) and become sons of Light (i.e., His disciples).

Belief and Unbelief Among the Jews (12:37-50)

- ⁴⁴Then Jesus cried out [indicating the importance of the issues to the Jews], “**Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me.**”⁴⁵ The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.
- **Jesus is the perfect manifestation of God**, the One who sent Him, so that **to believe in Jesus is to believe in God** – when one sees Jesus, he sees the Father who sent Him.

- :46-47 I have come into the world as a light, so that **no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.**
- **Jesus came to save the world** *by leading people out of* Satan's kingdom of darkness *into* **God's kingdom of love and light.**

- Deuteronomy 32: 45-46 When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, he said to them, “**Take to heart *all the words*** I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may ***command your children to obey carefully *all the words of this law****.
- Unfortunately!!
- Deuteronomy 31:29 For I know that **after my death you are sure *to become utterly corrupt* and *to turn from the way I have commanded you***. In days to come, ***disaster will fall on*** you ***because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD*** and ***stir his anger by what your hands have made.***”

- The purpose of God's revelation in Jesus is *positive*: **He came to save**, not to judge. But **rejection of God's Revelation** inevitably brings a hardening in sin and *ultimately* God's judgment.
- In speaking of Jewish national unbelief John balanced his theological explanation with **Jesus' serious persuasion to the nation to repent**. In the words of Moses, **these "are not just words for you – they are your life"** (Deut. 32:47)
- Deuteronomy 32:47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them, you will **live long in the land** you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

- :49-50 For I did not speak on my own, but **the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.**⁵⁰ I know that **his command** (following His order to be under His control) **leads to eternal life.**
- So *whatever I say* is just ***what the Father has told me to say.***
→ **trust and obey**

- **Mark 9:47** And if your eye causes you to **stumble, pluck it out**. It is better for you **to enter the kingdom of God with one eye** than **to have two eyes and be thrown into hell**.
- **Revelation 20:15** Anyone whose **name was not found written in the book of life** was **thrown into the lake of fire**.

In Reflection

- Passed over the forces of destruction due to being **saved by the blood**
- **The law of sacrifice** – Jesus gave up (His divine rights and His life) to go up (to become ruler of the universe) permanently. – death is necessary for a harvest
- Satan's power vs. Jesus power → sin and death vs. **holiness and life**
- Satan's kingdom (Darkness) vs. God's kingdom (Light) → spiritual darkness and slavery to sin vs. **spiritual love/light and obedience to God. Note: All authority** in heaven and on earth **has been given to Jesus.**
- Lake of fire vs. **eternal life** → hell vs. **being able to be with the Lord**

•

END

Q&A

- **What is the law of sacrifice for a Jesus' *disciple* – *his* sacrifice and *his* result?**

- Athletes who hope to be competitive must ***exercise great control over themselves "in all things."*** This would include not just physical training, but also strict diets, sleep schedules, abstaining from harmful drugs, and caution in their behavior.
- Christians, though, exercise self-control and self-denial in order ***to win a crown (e.g. a gold medal for an athlete) that will never die.***
- The emphasis here is on ***commitment and effort***, not rivalry
- Paul is describing ***a reward for service to Christ that will be given in addition to salvation.***
- **Source:** <https://www.bibleref.com/1-Corinthians/9/1-Corinthians-9-25.html>