

” God’s Plan of Salvation Cannot be Derailed!”**John 12:1-19 (vv. 17-19)**

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I. Introduction:

These passages find us in the final week of the mortal existence of Christ Jesus. Moreover, Jesus is now entering Jerusalem for the final time before His arrest and crucifixion, before His glorification and His exaltation. In these passages we witness the love, mercy, grace and sovereignty of God. God’s plan of salvation is His way of providing redemption and reconciliation to mankind so that we might be in right relationship with Him. With this comes deliverance from sin and spiritual death for mankind through repentance and faith in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lets us know in John 3:16 that God gave/sent Him because of God’s great love for mankind. This was the “ONLY” way, the necessary sacrifice, that mankind had to have so that we could be reconciled unto God.

II. The Lesson:” God’s Plan of Salvation Cannot be Derailed”**1. vv. 1-3:**

A great feast is being had and the one thing that makes it so is the presence of the honoree, Jesus. We know that Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead is among those present and I think it safe to assume that the 12 were there also. But none of these gives of themselves in this moment as does Lazarus’ sister Mary. Mary gives an expensive gift, but the cost is not what really matters here. The fact that what she gave could be construed as the best that she had. What really matters is the how and the why of her giving. The how – Mary gave from a humble posture. The why - Mary gave as a grateful and devoted servant.

2. vv. 4-8:

This again is proof positive that Jesus is Lord. Everyone was not seated at the table with Jesus because they believed in His deity as the true and living Son of God. A mere man with the knowledge of his betrayer would never have selected him to be within his inner circle. Yet Jesus did select Judas Iscariot with full knowledge that he was to be the betrayer. The perfume that Mary poured on Jesus’ feet was normally associated with some festivity, but it was also used in burials. Jesus links this specific use as an anticipation of His own burial. Jesus quotes a portion of Deut. 15:11, “there will always be poor people” and forewarns that His physical presence will not always be there.

3. vv. 9-11:

As if their sinful desire to arrest and kill Jesus was not great enough, now begins a plot to kill Lazarus also. Although news of Lazarus' resurrection has spread, his untimely death at the hands of the chief priest in their minds would likely serve to end it from continuing farther. The killing of Lazarus, an innocent man guilty of only returning from the dead, in the minds of the chief priests is simple collateral damage. Their sin continues to grow. One sin so quickly and easily leads to another.

4. vv. 12,13:

The great crowd went out to meet Jesus as He approached Jerusalem bringing with them palm branches. The palm branches were used in celebration of victory and Hosanna was a Hebrew expression meaning "Save Now!" which became an exclamation of praise. These two verses in summary are a celebratory acclamation of Jesus as "Savior, Lord and King" and praising Him in advance for victory over the enemies of Israel while also acknowledging His having been sent by God.

5. vv. 14,15:

Jesus is the Messiah! Here Jesus presents Himself as the "Messiah", the "King of Israel". This is the fulfillment of prophecy. John alone records verse 15 referring to the prophetic words of Zechariah 9:9. Jesus does not come as a conquering king, ready to lead Israel against the Romans, set on overthrowing their rule. He has come as the Prince of Peace" and the "Lamb of God," whose death would provide the cure for a sin sick world.

6. vv.16:

Only Jesus knows what is happening and what is about to happen as He enters Jerusalem. The disciples did not recognize that the fulfillment of prophecy was taking place right in front of them. Only after Jesus was glorified and exalted, were they able to recall what had been written about Him and that what was prophesied was fulfilled in all that was done to Him.

Focal Verses

v.17. 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. v.18. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. V.19. So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" Jesus' bold entrance into Jerusalem gets the attention of everyone, Jew and Gentile alike. Its likely that those who have travel from distances are unaware of the most recent events (Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead) but those that witnessed this miracle tell the story over and over again to anyone that would listen

to them. Although the Jewish religious leaders have made countless threats regarding anyone that proclaimed Jesus as Lord, the message was continually shared. Hearing of this miraculous sign is the only reason some of these people go out to meet Jesus as He nears the city.

The Pharisees on the other hand, have been watching Jesus with great suspicion from the very beginning, they are continually monitoring their ratings and taking note of how many people are abandoning them to follow Jesus. The Pharisees appear to be at their wits end, even to the point of panic at the continual loss of their hold on the people. They are beginning to think that theirs is a lost cause. They had already concluded that Jesus must die, for their own preservation, and for that of the nation (Jn 11:49-53,57). They are now forced to take desperate measures. Up until now the Jewish religious leaders have been unwilling to seize and kill Jesus during Passover. However, now they are ready to do whatever it takes to get rid of Him. In their eagerness to kill Jesus, even if it meant doing so during Passover, they perfectly fulfill the intended will of God and the purpose of our Lord's coming, that He die during Passover as the perfect Passover Lamb. God's timing is perfect, and His will shall always come to pass!

III. Conclusion: Share the Good News of Jesus Christ

Romans Road to Salvation

1. Step 1

Romans Road begins with the truth that everyone needs salvation because all people have sinned. No one gets a free ride, because every person is guilty before God. Because of the sinful nature that we are all born with we all miss the mark with regards to God's righteousness. Romans 3:9-12, 23: 9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Step 2

The price (or consequence) of sin is death. The punishment we all deserve is both physical and spiritual death, thus we need God's salvation to escape the deadly, eternal consequences of our sin. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Step 3

Jesus Christ died for our sins. His death paid the full price for our salvation. Through the death and resurrection of God's own Son, the debt we owed was satisfied. Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. Step 4

We (all sinners) receive salvation and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. Anyone who places their trust in Jesus receives the promise of eternal life. Romans 10:9-10, and 13: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

5. Step 5

Salvation through Jesus Christ brings us into a right relationship of peace with God. When we accept God's gift, we have the reward of knowing never be condemned for our sins. Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we [a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:38-39 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.