

Loving Jesus With All Your Heart (John 12:1-36)

Pastor Deric

(1) Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus--the man he had raised from the dead. (2) A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. (3) Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. (4) But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, (5) "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." (6) Not that he cared for the poor--he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. (7) Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. (8) You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." (9) When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. (10) Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too. (11) for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

(12) The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors (13) took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God (Hosanna)! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!" (14) Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: (15) "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt." (16) His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. (17) Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. (18) That was the reason so many went out to meet him--because they had heard about this miraculous sign. (19) Then the Pharisees said to each other; "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"

(20) Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration (21) paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus." (22) Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus. (23) Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. (24) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels--a plentiful harvest of new lives. (25) Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. (26) Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. (27) "Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came! (28) Father, bring glory to your name." Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again." (29) When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him. (30) Then Jesus told them, "The voice was for your benefit, not mine. (31) The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. (32) And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." (33) He said this to indicate how he was going to die. (34) The crowd responded, "We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?" (35) Jesus replied, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. (36) Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light." After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them. [John 12:1-36 NLT]

Practical Application

1. How much do you love God? How much do you love Jesus?
2. Is Jesus worth more to you than “your” time, money, personal honor, and your very self?
3. How faithful and loyal are you to your Creator, your Savior?
4. No doubt, we all fall short of giving our great God the perfect love He deserves. But amazingly, He loves us anyway.
5. His love is what enables our love. His love is what sustains our love. His love is what completes ours. His love is like no other.
6. The perfect love of God is what we all need. His love has the final word.
7. When we realize this we will grow more and more in love with Him.
8. Jesus brings with Him love, celebration, joy, and delight.
9. Lovingly welcome Jesus into your home and family.
10. Jesus can bring life out of death.
11. Live for the honor, praise, and glory of Jesus Christ.
12. Serve God and people with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
13. Invite Jesus to your dinner table. Live in relational communion with Him.
14. Shamelessly and devotedly give Jesus your best worship.
15. Is your life, family, and presence filled with the fragrance of love for Christ?
16. Do not let disloyalty, abandonment, or betrayal keep you from loving God and completing His plan for your life.
17. Don’t let greed and money control your life.
18. Don’t let lies, deceit, or any kind of dishonesty rule your heart.
19. Don’t let stealing or theft take root in your heart.
20. Don’t try to control the way others worship.
21. Flock to Jesus and bring as many others with you as possible.
22. Realize that following Jesus may cost you something.
23. Spread the good news about Jesus to everyone around you.
24. Palm Sunday, like ever day, is all about Jesus.
25. Let your life be characterized by praise, worship, and exaltation of Jesus.
26. Make the Name of the Lord known around you.
27. Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies. He is clearly the Messiah and hope of the world.
28. Recognize Jesus is the King of the world.
29. At His first coming he came riding on a donkey, at His second coming He will be riding a white horse.
30. Tell others about all that God has done for you.
31. Introduce as many people as possible to Jesus.
32. Jesus, the gospel, and Christianity as a whole is far more superior than Greek mythology or philosophy.
33. Jesus’ story is a true story and He is the greatest philosopher to ever live.
34. Do people ever come to you in order to meet Jesus and ask questions about Him?
35. Ask Jesus whatever questions you have each day.
36. God’s timing is always perfect. Seek to live on His divine timetable.
37. One lone seed that falls into the ground, dies, and is raised to life brings forth multiplied life and harvests.
38. Pray for and live for the harvest of people turning to Jesus.
39. If you love your life more than you love Jesus you will loose your life.
40. If you love Jesus more that your temporal life on earth you have eternal life.
41. True disciples of Jesus follow Him and lead others to do the same.
42. God the Father honors those who serve Him.
43. Do what God calls you to do even if it is hard.
44. Live your life for the glory of God in all you do.
45. Satan has been cast out, and Jesus has full authority over Him. You do not have to live in fear.
46. Walk in the light. Walk with Jesus.
47. Trust in Jesus, the light of the world, and become a child of light.

Announcements

1. Good Friday Service! We will be having a Good Friday worship service this week (April 7) starting at 6:30 PM. Invite friends and family. The service will include communion. We look forward to seeing you all there.
2. Resurrection Sunday is next week (April 9th)! We look forward to celebrating Christ with you. Did you know that people are more likely to attend a church service on this day than any other day of the year? Invite people this week with love and courage.
3. Business Meeting: We will have the next church business meeting on Sunday, April 16 immediately following service. The budget will be discussed and approved at this meeting so please try to attend if you can.