

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 12:12-36)

1. Have you ever had unmet expectations of how the Lord was going to work in your life or in a particular circumstance?
  - What was the situation and how did you expect the Lord to work?
  - How did the Lord actually move/work in the situation?
  - What did you learn from this experience?Have you ever placed your hope in a person (authority figure) only to be disappointed by them in the end?
  - What does this reveal about our propensities as people?
  - How does this relate to the experience of the Jewish people during the triumphal entry?
    - What did they expect of Jesus as their Messiah?
    - How did Jesus not meet their expectations?
    - How did Jesus actually exceed their expectations (even if many of them didn't realize it)?
2. As things continue to progress in this narrative, we see the growing opposition of the Jewish religious leaders toward Jesus.
  - How do Jesus' actions impact their reputations among the people?
  - Why are these people so opposed to the works of God (though they claim to be servants of God in their lives)?
  - How can we protect ourselves from becoming like them and fight for Christ instead of against the work of God?
    - What do they prioritize and how can we make sure to keep the true Messiah (Jesus) in the center of all that we do?
3. Read verses 23-26
  - How do Jesus' words in these verses strike you?
    - What is required of us for eternal life?
    - How do we maintain an eternal perspective no matter what might come our way in this life?
  - How does verse 26 relate to the previous statements made by our Lord?
    - If we claim to serve Him, what does it look like to follow Him?
    - How do His words in verses 24 & 25 encourage us to be bold in our witness for Christ and truly follow Him.
  - What are the rewards outlined by Jesus here for those who follow Jesus?
  - What are the warnings for those who don't?
    - How can we grow in our boldness and willingness to serve the Lord, whatever the cost might be?
4. Read verses 31-33
  - In these verses, we see how the Lord reveals His glory and His plans for the Messiah to truly bring salvation.
  - How does this reveal that God's ways are not our ways?
    - How does it show that God's glory is revealed even in the death of His Son?
    - What does Jesus' death accomplish on our behalf?
    - How does Jesus' death result in victory over the ruler of this world?

**5. What is Jesus primary concern in these verses?**

How can we also make God's glory our primary concern?

How can we learn from Jesus' example to obey the Father no matter what the cost might be?

How do His actions reveal a deep love for the Father AND for all of us?

Once again, we see His identification of being the Light.

This description is used repeatedly throughout the book of John.

What does it mean for us to walk by the light?

What happens if we believe in the light?

**6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.**

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

**1. When God doesn't do things my way, I'm wrong - not Him!**

*If He doesn't meet my expectations, I need to adjust them!*

**2. God uses even what we see as humiliation for His glory!**

*God's ways are not our ways, & He will be glorified!*

**3. If we want life, we must value Christ above all!**

*We value Him even above our physical lives themselves!*

**4. Believe in The Light to become children of The Light!**

*The Light of the World (Jesus) is the only way to the Father!*