

Community Group Discussion Questions

THE LAST WEEK “The Arrival” – John 12:1-50

These discussion questions are not connected to the sermon of 2/28. They introduce the next sermon series.

Theme: *Jesus begins the final days of His earthly ministry. The various reactions recorded here, especially to His death, give us some insight into our reactions toward Him today.*

These discussion questions introduce a sermon series, even though the first message won't be delivered until March 7. If you knew you had only one more week to live, how would you spend your time? What would be important to you? As we come to John 12, this is the question confronting Jesus, because He knew that He had only six more days to live. He therefore decided to spend His time doing things that He believed to be of utmost importance.

As we look at two of Jesus' final days here in John 12, we begin to see how people will respond to Him, especially with reference to His death. We are given at least six reactions to Christ. And the six responses recorded here give us some insight into our own responses toward Him today.

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

If you knew you had only one week to live, how would you spend your time?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read John 12:1-43:

1. Here in John 12, as Jesus journeys humbly into Jerusalem to give His life, we see people reacting to Him in at least 6 ways.
 - Reacting with Service (12:1-2): Who serves here?
 - Reacting with Worship (12:3): Who worships?
 - Reacting with Selfish Ambition (12:4-8): Who reacts in this way?
 - Reacting with Convenience (12:9-19): What is the crowd hoping Jesus will do?
 - Reacting with Curiosity (12:20-33): Who reacts in this way?
 - Reacting with Unbelief / Belief (12:34-50): Who reacts in this way?

2. Reread 12:1-2. Martha is often found serving (see Luke 10:38-41). On this occasion, her service was not even in her own home. What may have motivated Martha to serve like this?
3. Mary took “*an expensive perfume*” and anointed Jesus' feet, wiping them with her hair. How can we pour perfume on Jesus this week? Is there some humble act of love that you can perform to express your devotion to Him? What might that be?
4. Reread 12:4-8. Judas objected to Mary's action, suggesting that the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. But Judas was a thief. He would later betray Jesus for money. What are some ways we can, in effect, “sell” Jesus today?
5. On what we call Palm Sunday (12:12-15), the crowd planned to make Jesus a political king. By riding into the city on a donkey, how was Jesus revealing that He was the Christ (Zechariah 9:9), but not their kind of Christ?
6. How would you summarize to a friend the point that Jesus is making by His reference to agriculture (see vss.23-24)? What would His death on the cross accomplish (see vss.31-32)?
7. The crowd rejected Jesus' message, while some leaders believed. But because of social pressures, they remained secret or silent believers. What sorts of pressures might cause us to be like these leaders?

Getting Real Together (Accessibility)

1. Of the 6 reactions to Jesus described in this chapter, which one best describes your own response to Him at this time in your life, and why?
2. How will you seek to grow from wherever your reaction is today to where you would prefer to be?

Group Prayer Time (Supplication)

1. Pray that your own reaction to Jesus would grow in order to reflect a heart that, in greater measure, reflects a passion for service, worship and true faith.
2. Pray your study of the last week of Jesus' life over the next few weeks will be an enriching experience for you and our church.