

One Hour

Today represents what has become known as Palm Sunday. The Sunday before Easter marks the beginning of what is known as Holy Week.

Jesus indicates that this is the beginning of His Hour. The Hour that would change everything!

Remember John said at the beginning of his gospel in 1:14 “... *we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*” -KJV

Setting: John chapter 11 tells us how Jesus performed His most powerful public miracle of all. He raised Lazarus from the dead. It was done as perhaps His greatest sign leading up to His own resurrection. It was done to bring glory to the Son of God.

Note: His Glory is revelation of His true identity and worth!

John 11:3, 4 – “So the sisters sent to Him, saying, ‘Lord, he whom You love is ill.’ 4 But when Jesus heard it He said, ‘This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’”

John 11:39, 40 – “Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to Him, ‘Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.’ 40 Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?’”

Jesus’ revelation of Himself always produced two responses.

For many of the Jews, this miracle was clear proof that He was the Son of God and, as a result they believed (v. 45). But others were only hardened in their unbelief and they went to His enemies, the Pharisees, and reported what had happened.

This miraculous sign (v. 47) was so significant that the chief priests and the Pharisees decided to call an emergency session of the Sanhedrin.

The final decision was made to kill Him (v.53).

This event marks a major transition: *John 11:54 – “Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there He stayed with the disciples.”*

Jesus is Anointed for His Assignment (Read John 12:1-3)

- 1) The pure nard was a very expensive and fragrant oil imported in sealed alabaster boxes from northern India. It was only opened on special occasions. Mary's lavish gift (a pint) expressed her love and thanks to Jesus for Himself and for His restoring Lazarus to life.
- 2) This extravagant act of worship is rich with spiritual impact.
 - a) Mary's Gratitude
 - b) Mary's Revelation
 - c) Mary's Worship

2 Corinthians 2:15 NIV – "for we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ..."

Things become very serious after this:

- Large crowds hear that Jesus is in Bethany and they want to see Jesus and Lazarus.
- The Chief Priest is alerted too and they begin to search for Christ and Lazarus too. They have decided to kill them both.
- The next day on Palm Sunday, Jesus makes His entrance into Jerusalem.

John 12:12, 13 – "...large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'"

His Journey is ours: *Luke 9:51 – "When the days drew near for Him to be taken up, He set His face to go to Jerusalem."*

We are learning more and more that the life Jesus lived is the life He has called us to live.

Jesus our Messiah came to live a life marked by a sacrificial dying to self and serving others before He comes a second time to reign in glory.

And the truth about *discipleship* is that it demands a life of sacrificial, dying service to God before we can reign with Christ in glory.

What His disciples had to learn is what we must learn too. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem is our journey, and if He set his face to go there and die, we must set our face to die to our self with Him.

His Hour is Our Hour

1) This Hour was His Hour to Die.

a) When Jesus set His face to walk the Calvary road, He was not merely taking our place; He was setting our pattern.

i) Philip and Andrew tell Jesus, "Some Greeks want to see you! Everybody is here to worship you! This is a great day! Did you hear all those people praising you!"

ii) His response must have shocked them.

*John 12:23-26 – "And Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.'"*

b) Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin and also to demonstrate His power over death. His resurrection proves He has eternal life. Because Jesus is God, He can give this same eternal life to all who believe in Him. THIS IS HIS GLORY! HE IS THE LIFE GIVER!

We are called to be sacrifices (Romans 12:1–2, living sacrifices).

The Passover Meal: Stay in John and look at the next chapter (ch.13).

Jesus is sharing the Passover meal with His disciples. In fact, Chapters 13–17 concentrate on His teachings on that crucial night in which He was arrested.

13:1 – "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

2) This Hour was His Hour to Serve.

- a) Jesus called them to servanthood over and over. *Matt. 20:28 – “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*

*Read: John 13:12-16 – “When He had washed their feet and put on His outer garments and resumed His place, He said to them, ‘Do you understand what I have done to you? **13** You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. **16** Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”*

- b) His Journey is our Journey. His cross is our cross. He wants His heart to be our heart.

3) This Hour was His Hour to Glorify God.

John 17:1 “... He lifted up his eyes to Heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You.”

- a) Jesus glorified the Father on the earth: *17:4 – “I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do.”*

Our work is to glorify Jesus while we are on the earth: *17:10 – “All mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.”*

- b) Did you know that Jesus has shared His glory with us?

*John 17:20-23 – “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. **22** The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, **23** I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.”*

- i) Jesus was so united to the Father that He would in no way deviate from redemption’s plan.

...and, that was His Glory! That is what Exalted Him!

- ii) Our glory is that we together share in the great oneness of being in Christ together through His death, burial, and resurrection.

Paul understood this in Romans 6:3-5 – “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. **5** For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

His hour is ours.

His death is our death.

His resurrection life is our resurrection life!

c) Finally, how do we glorify God in this hour?

- i) Like Mary, by spending all that we have to the praise of His glory. *The oil of our Worship!*
- ii) Like Christ, by accomplishing the work He has for us in this life. *The focus of our Face... He set his Face to the task!*
- iii) Like Christ, being happily united with the Father in heart, mind, and body. *The joy of our hearts is found not in our circumstances, but rather in truly knowing and pleasing the Father.*