

# Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

[John 12:1-36](#)

"Lose Your Life to Gain It" – September 5, 2021



## Introduction

Would you say that you are an idolater? John's gospel has been on repeat saying true life is found in God alone. An idol is anything we trust or love more than God. It's something we can't live without or something we are willing to break the rules to protect. These idols promise life and a sense of control but ultimately fail us. John gives us guard rails for how we can guard our life and have fullness of life.

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- 1) Esteem the right thing. ([12:1-11](#))
- 2) Embrace the call to come and die. ([12:12-36](#))

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [12:1-11](#)

We cannot serve two masters. The religious leaders were consumed by the praise of man. Jesus knew what they were planning, his death. Yet, he continued humbly in perseverance. Do you love the praise of man more than the praise of God? Mary anointed Jesus with a year's salary of perfume on his feet. Judas was disgusted by her sacrifice. Judas sounds honorable when he says he cares about the poor, but the truth John makes clear is that he loved money. He couldn't comprehend Mary's sacrifice. Judas esteemed wealth more than Jesus. Greed is common as Americans and can seem like a "respectable" sin. Jesus warns us though that greed left unchecked leads us to think that this world is all there is. This world is not ultimate. How do we love Christ and value him above all else? First, look at Lazarus (vs. 9). Notice how Lazarus responds to Jesus raising him from the dead. He reclines with Him at table. He could have had all the fame he wanted. He came back from the dead. Yet, Lazarus is content and chooses fellowship with Jesus over all those things. He even risks his life by openly associating with Jesus. He sees the all surpassing worth of knowing Jesus. Do you? Are there areas of your life that leave you distracted from His ultimate worth? By choosing Jesus over anything else and choosing fellowship with Jesus on a regular basis in prayer, reading, singing, and gathering as a church we proclaim His worth. God uses these normal means of grace to grow us in our esteem for Jesus, because those are the ways in which He shows how worthy He is. Where do these things fall on your priority scale?

Notice Martha is completely changed since the last dinner party before Lazarus' resurrection. Martha had good theology before but has come to know and experience God's love. It's real to her now. Her costly gift shows us that Jesus' is worth all of us and everything we have. He is worthy of all. Martha was working hard in the kitchen before, but the change in her heart realized that Christ loves her fully not because of her performance.

That newfound vision she has transforms everything into an act of worship for her. It makes her acts just as valuable as Mary's gift. The love of Christ sets us free to serve others than use others. We can rejoice in seeing others follow Christ knowing He love his children with His own life. Pray for us as a church that we would consider everything else as rubbish compared to the value of knowing Jesus. What if you've noticed you've veered off the path and are starting to head towards trusting something other than God? What can you do? We can embrace the call to come and die.

## 2) Read [12:12-36](#)

The palm branches are a signal of victory for the king. Hosanna means, "God save us". They expect Jesus to come and save them from Roman rule. Jesus is indeed the king, but He does not come in the way they expected. He doesn't come on a war horse. He shows up on a young donkey. Most people missed Jesus because he didn't fit their expectations. What are your expectations of Jesus? Do they align with who He says He is?

The pharisees decided to kill Jesus to protect their place and their nation. A few years from then, the temple would be destroyed anyway, not because of Jesus, but because of the constant search they had for political solutions without spiritual renewal. Politics cannot bring about the heart change that needs to happen in a person's life. Jesus alone changes hearts.

Jesus shows the way that he will be glorified is not by conquest, but by dying. His death will result in the salvation of the world. Jesus says whoever loves his life will lose it. The word for love or keep means, "to protect or guard". Are you spending most of your time and energy trying to keep, gain for or protect your life here on this earth?

Life on this earth is far from all there is or ever will be. Jesus lovingly warns us if we try to protect our life, we will lose our life. If we lose our life for His sake, we gain life. The truth is you don't have to be an atheist to live like an atheist. You can pronounce God with your mouth but live like an atheist in practice. Christ calls a man he bids him come and die. We do what He says and go where He goes – with a self-sacrificing love for God and others. Is there something in your life today that needs to die in order to live?

Additional Reading: [Matthew 13:44](#)

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

**\*Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [John 12:37-50](#) "Glory that Comes from God"