

Gospels Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Eight: Road to the Cross – Matthew 21-23, John 11-12

Read John 11.

- 1) What indications do you find in John 11 and Luke 10:38-42 that Jesus had a close relationship with the three siblings, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus (include verse numbers)?

- 2) Explain...
 - a) the circumstances that precipitated Jesus' trip to Judea (11:6-7, 11, 14-15)

 - b) why Jesus delayed in leaving for Judea (11:6)

 - c) the possible reasons Jesus wept (11:35)

 - d) how the Sanhedrin's decision in verses 53 and 57 relates to the raising of Lazarus (11:47-48)

 - e) the significance of Caiaphas' words (11:49-52)

 - f) the significance of John 11 in light of Jesus' own impending death (11:25)

- 3) Contemplate and pray over the meaning of Jesus' words in John 11:9-10.
 - a) How did Jesus answer His disciples' question and concern (verse 8) about the danger of returning to Judea?

 - b) Relate this truth to the circumstances of your own life this week.

Read Matthew 21:1-22:14 and John 12:12-19.

- 4) What information about the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem does John give that Matthew does not?

- 5) At Jesus' Triumphal Entry, the crowds honored Him as the "Son of David" (Matthew 21:9). When Jesus entered the Temple courts, the children shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David" (Matthew 21:15). What is the implication of the term "Son of David" (recall Matthew 1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30, and look ahead at Matthew 22:41-42)?
- 6) Jesus refused to directly answer the religious leaders' question concerning His authority (Matthew 21:23, 27).
 - a) Find ways in which the three parables in Matthew 21:28-22:14 answered their question.
 - b) Which area of your life needs to come more fully under Jesus' authority today?

Read Matthew 22:15-46.

- 7) Following Jesus' indictments against the Jewish religious leaders in His parables, how did various groups seek to trap Jesus (22:15) and what was the end result (include verse numbers)?
- 8) Think carefully about Matthew 22:42-46 (especially verse 45). Can you suggest the reason why Psalm 110:1 (quoted in Matthew 22:44) would have challenged the Jews' thinking about the Christ (the Messiah)?
- 9) The greatest and second greatest commands of the Law are indicated by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-40.
 - a) Jesus said that all of the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commands (Matthew 22:40). Reread the two commands and explain how any other commands of God flow from these?

- b)** Keeping in mind the previous lesson on discipleship, which requirement for following Christ would be less taxing for you if you first determined to obey the two greatest commands (it may be helpful to look back at your answers to Lesson 7)?

Read Matthew 23.

- 10)** For which practices did Jesus condemn the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees in Matthew 23 (include references)?

- 11)** What does Jesus predict in Matthew 23:33-39?

- 12)** Reread Matthew 23:23. Which essential quality in those whose religion is pure (not hypocritical) do you struggle the most to live out? Justice, mercy, or faithfulness? In which relationship(s) will you begin to practice this approach more consistently?

Read John 12:1-11.

- 13)** According to verses 7-8, for what purpose did Mary anoint Jesus' feet with perfume (whether or not she fully understood the significance)?

- 14)** Compare Mary and Judas in John 12:1-11.

- 15)** With what kind of a fragrance are your recent attitudes and actions filling your home or workplace (see John 12:3b)?