

Four Men without a Name Part 2

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[0 : 00] John chapter 12. John chapter 12.

This will be a somewhat familiar passage of scripture for you.! It seems we're talking about the triumphal entry.! John chapter 12 beginning at verse 12.

It says, John 12, 12. On the next day much people were come to the feast. Excuse me. When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna!

Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Zion.

Behold, the King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. These things understood not his disciples at the first. But when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

[1 : 17] And the people, therefore, that was with him when he called Lazarus out of the grave and raised him from the dead, bear record. For this cause the people also met him, for they had heard that he had done this miracle.

The Pharisees, therefore, said unto themselves, Perceiving how they prevailed nothing, behold, the world has gone after him. And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast.

The same came, therefore, to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

I love that end of that passage. Sir, we would see Jesus. We should love this holiday, Palm Sunday.

We as Americans, we love parades, don't we? We take national TV time to show the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. We take national TV time to show the Rose Bowl Parade.

[2 : 21] We love parades. We like to have parades in our own cities, in our own towns. My little town of Heartland, every year Memorial Day, we had a parade. Heartland's not very big.

1,800 people, maybe 2,000 now, but we had a parade on Memorial Day. Sports teams, they win. People have parades in their home cities.

We love to have a good parade. And here, we see this happening in Jerusalem as Jesus comes in. Why is this such a big deal?

Well, first of all, I want you to see a couple things about this fact that Jesus rode this donkey into Jerusalem on that day. First of all, he did it to fulfill prophecy.

Zechariah 9.9 says, Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, thy king cometh unto thee. He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass.

[3 : 26] How did Jesus say the Messiah was going to arrive? Riding on a donkey. He was going to come in, and he says, Rejoice when you see that.

Why is again, is that so important that he did that? Because he was declaring himself to be the king. That act was a matter of declaring himself to be king.

In times past, you know, the conquering hero would ride in on a prancing stallion. You know, he'd come back from war, and he'd be riding on this stallion, and he was the victor.

But during times of peace, they would ride on a donkey. That was signifying that that was the king. It was the time of peace, and here he came. So here's Jesus. He's coming in, not declaring himself to be a war maker.

I'm going to throw these Romans out of here. He's declaring himself to be a peacemaker. He's declaring himself to be the king of kings and lord of lords, as he rides in that day.

[4 : 28] But, what I want you to see today is not the parade. Notice the title, after the parade passes by. What happened after that?

What happened after that triumphal infreak? What did Jesus do that day besides running, ride into Jerusalem on a donkey? He was fulfilling prophecy.

He was declaring himself to be king. Those were great things, but what is he going through? What was he facing on that day? I want to look at that. Let's have a word of prayer, and then we will. Father, I pray today that you would help us to understand more about Jesus.

Did you help us understand more of who he is and what his heart is? Lord, I pray that you would help us to have the heart of Christ. Those of us who are saved and know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, have asked him into our life.

Lord, may we have his heart as we go through our life, as we face the things of this world. May we face them the way he did. May we face them understanding what this world truly needs.

[5 : 36] Lord, speak to our hearts today through this message. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. First thing I want you to see, I'm going to do something different today. I usually don't make you move in your Bible.

Today I'm going to have you go three different places. So, first of all, just back up a couple of books. Book of Matthew, chapter 21. Book of Matthew, chapter 21. And just to show you what is happening here, Matthew 21, look with me at verse 9.

And the multitudes that went before and that followed cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Same thing. Triumphal entry. He's coming into Jerusalem. What happens immediately after that? Look at verse 12. Verse 12.

And Jesus went into the temple of God and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple and overthrew the tables of the money changers and the seats of them that sold doves.

[6 : 49] He said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple and he healed them. And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did and the children crying in the temple saying, Hosanna to the Son of David, they were sore displeased and said unto him, Hearest thou what these say?

And Jesus said unto them, Yea, have ye not read out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? He had anger over the misuse of God's house.

He comes riding in and it's a joyous time, but Jesus' heart is heavy. It's a joyous time. People are shouting and they're waving and they think, but think about what's going to happen not to distant future.

And Jesus' heart is heavy because his father's house is being used for something other than what it was designed for. He says, you've made it a den of thieves because you're buying and selling and doing all these things.

[8 : 03] So the first thing he does is he's cleansing the temple. He comes into Jerusalem and the first thing he does is cleanse the temple. You know, there's a message here.

Jesus isn't particularly impressed with religious commercialism. He's not particularly impressed with us turning everything into commercialism.

Always trying to make a buck off things. You know, he's not only concerned that we do God's work, but he's concerned how and why we are doing it. What's the purpose behind it?

What's the motive behind it? You know, when I stand before him someday, he's not going to ask me about how I did with the church budget.

He's not going to ask me about, you know, what new things I was able to get. He's going to ask me about how I ministered and with what spirit I ministered. What was my motivation for why I did the things I did here?

[9 : 10] You know, we used to have a choir. You sing in a choir and stuff. Why did you do it? Was it because you were concerned about the fact that you could always hit the right note? Jesus was more concerned about why are you singing at all?

Why are you doing it? You know, right now we've got people just went down to do junior church and we have Sunday school and we have youth groups and things like that. His concern there is not the fact that it's being done, but are you doing it for the students that they might learn?

Are you doing it for them so that they can know Jesus? Why are you doing it? See, he wants to know that. What's the motive behind it? These money changers in the temple, excuse me, they were not doing it in the spirit of the temple.

They were providing a need. There were certain things people were supposed to offer in their sacrifices and things. Not everybody had them. So they were providing a way for them to get them. But they were more concerned about the buying and the selling than they were the fact that the worship was going on.

They didn't care about the worship. They didn't care about the sacrifice. They didn't care about all that. They cared about making money. He's saying, look, my house is supposed to be a house of prayer.

[10 : 26] My house is supposed to be a place where God is worshiped. It is not a place to make a buck. I'm not trying to say that the temple was the same as the church today.

See, God, back then, he centered his worship on the temple, a place. He now centers his worship in each and every one of us.

We are his temple. He does it through us. How do we treat him? How do we view our worship of him? One of the things that distinguishes Christians from so many others is our reliance on prayer.

Do we rely on God to meet the needs that we have? Does anywhere in the Bible, Genesis to Revelation, does it say, my house shall be called the house of preaching?

Now, I think preaching is important. Otherwise, I wouldn't be up here doing it. But I think it's important. But he doesn't call it the house of preaching. Does he call it, my house should be called the house of music?

[11 : 36] So many churches today, music has taken over everything. He didn't say that either. What he did say, Isaiah 56, 7, even them will I bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar for mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people. Here in Matthew, chapter 21, verse 13, he said, it is written, my house shall be called a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Luke, chapter 19, verse 46, repeats the same thing. It is written, my house is a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves. God is so intent on us realizing what he brings us together for.

As we were talking in Sunday school, he brings us together in unity so that we can accomplish his work because we can do it better with extra numbers than we can by ourselves.

And he says, look, I'm bringing you together to make this a house of prayer. Think of what can be accomplished as a house of prayer. Preaching and music are important, but they shouldn't override prayer.

[12 : 59] The church's main priority, the church's main priority should be making it a house of prayer. Do you ever stop and think, go back to the book of Acts.

When the book of Acts was written, the church was just starting. It was just coming into existence. And how did that church get started? In Acts chapter, chapter 1, it says in verse 14, these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

They continued with one accord in prayer. Acts chapter 2, verse 1, and when the day of Pentecost, which is when the church is going to start, when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

The unity, the working together for one goal, to see Jesus Christ honored and glorified, uplifted and proclaimed to the world.

They were in one accord and the Holy Spirit was about to be poured out on them. Stop and think the fact that God started the church in a prayer meeting.

[14 : 23] And yet, today, prayer meetings in a lot of places have gone by the wayside. They don't have prayer meetings anymore. They don't gather for prayer time anymore.

By the way, if you're interested, Wednesday night, 6.30, you come, we'll pray. So, in Acts chapter 4, the apostles are arrested unjustly and they're put in jail and how do they handle that?

Well, in Acts chapter 4, if you read it, they called for a protest and they made signs and they didn't, no, that's not what they did. They got together with Herod and they got some political leverage and Herod went to bat for them.

Yeah, that didn't happen either. What did they do? They got together and prayed. Acts chapter 4, verse 23 and 24. And being let go, they went to their own company and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, Lord, thou art God which made heaven and earth and the sea and all that in them is.

[15 : 40] They went to prayer. They worshiped God. They proclaimed who God was. They thanked him for what he had done. They were out of prison and they were still able to meet.

And if you go down to verse 31 of Acts 4, it says this, and when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they spake the word of God with boldness. They went to prayer and when they had prayed, what does it say? The Holy Spirit came on them. It says, they went out and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

The church was established by prayer. The church begins to grow by prayer. The church moves forward by prayer. See, the apostles, they were, had this instinct within them.

Having been with Jesus and watched what Jesus did, they had this instinct that said, when we're in trouble, pray. When we're intimidated, pray.

[16 : 44] When we're challenged, pray. When we're persecuted, pray. Is that the attitude we have today? That when things are happening, when things are going on, we need to pray.

When we have need, do we pray? When we need strength, do we pray? When we need direction, do we pray? Do we spend time with God? Jesus said, look, my house would be called a house of prayer.

First thing he did after that triumphal energy was went to that temple and cleaned it out because they had made it something different. we should be moved by the fact that Jesus answers prayer.

But we should also be disturbed because we don't pray as much as we used to. Churches don't have that prayer meeting time. They don't have that time of getting together.

We get together and we kind of say prayers, but do we really pray? Get with God and ask him for his blessing on us.

[17 : 50] We go out and we talk about we're going to do this thing by faith and we're going to do that thing by faith and we're going to have these acts of faith. How about we just believe God and live it that way all the time?

Live for him. You know, the disciples, Paul in particular, could not have been more direct. 1 Timothy chapter 2 in verse 1 he says this, exhort therefore that first of all supplications and prayers and intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men.

First of all, he says, do that. Why is that so important? Because he says, my house shall be called a house of prayer.

Come to me. Ask me. Spend time with me. Paul goes on and he talks to Timothy in 1 Timothy chapter 2 verse 8. I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting.

He says, prayer is so important. My will is that men pray. Spend time with God. Spend time getting to know him.

[19 : 08] Do you understand how important your prayers are? What they mean to God? Let me show you. Revelation 5 verse 8. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and the four and twenty elders fell down before the lamb, having every one of them harps and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints.

God says, your prayers are so important to me. They're a treasure to me. They're a sweet savor to me. I hang on to them.

Our spending time with God is important to him. Is it important to you? Spending time with him? You know? Got to move on.

Second thing. He was angered over the fact that they had changed his temple from what was supposed to be used. He also had anguish over a missed message.

Anguish over a missed message. Turn over to Luke chapter 19. Two books back to the right, just before John. Luke chapter 19.

[20 : 36] In Luke chapter 19, oh, let's see. Look at verse 38. Saying, Blessed be the king that cometh in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

And some of the Pharisees among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. Same thing. Triumphal entry has taken place. They're praising him for who he is, claiming him to be God and king, the Messiah.

Look at verse 41. And when he was come near, he beheld the city and wept over it, saying, If thou hast known, even thou, at least in this thy day the things which belong unto thy peace, but now they are hidden from thine eyes.

For the days shall come upon thee when thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee and compass thee around and keep thee in on every side and shall lay thee even with the ground and thy children within thee, and thou, they shall not leave thee one stone upon another because thou knowest not the time of thy visitation.

He said, There's going to come a time when Jerusalem's going to be taken down. 70 A.D., that's going to happen. Jesus is here. It's about 31, 2, 3.

[22 : 01] By 70 A.D., that's going to happen in Jerusalem. Do you know why that wailing wall, that one wall in Jerusalem is so important? Why they reverence it so? It's one part of the temple that's left.

After that, what happened in 70 A.D.? It's the only part left. That's why they have such reverence for it. Jesus says, You're going to have to face problems. And why are you going to face problems?

Because you didn't consider my house to be a house of prayer? Because you didn't consider me to be Messiah? Because you did not recognize me when I came? You went your own way to do your own thing.

And he had anguish over that. He wept, first of all, over the city. He wept for the city. Remember, we're studying John 1 right now on Wednesday night before our prayer time.

And verse 11 says, He came to his own and his own received him not. He came to his people, the ones he had chosen, and said, Look, I'm going to be the Messiah.

[23 : 02] Here's how you know when I come. Zachariah 7.7. And he said, You didn't get it. You missed it. See, they wanted to come to God on their own terms.

We do that a lot today. God says in his word, Here's how you get saved. Here's how you know that you're on your way to heaven. Here's how you know that I am with you.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and also be saved. You trust me. You watch me. You listen for what I have to say to you. And you follow what I say.

But they wanted God on their own terms. They wanted a leader. They got a suffering savior. They wanted a ruler.

God sent a servant. They wanted a king with a throne and a crown. They got a carpenter's son hanging on a cross. He came to liberate their souls, not the city.

[24 : 07] He came to help them come to a knowledge of him and see him and for who he truly is, not to save the city. He came so that they could have salvation from eternal punishment.

He wasn't concerned about the city as much as he was concerned about each and every individual one of them. What they would have. You know, in Matthew chapter 23, verse 37, it says this, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sin unto thee, how often I would have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not.

He said, I came to you to gather you together, to put you under my protection, to help you, and you wouldn't do it. I sent prophets to you to tell you how you would know when I'm coming and you killed them.

I sent prophets unto you to help you go in the right direction and you're like, we don't want to go that way and you killed them. He said, I came myself to put my arms around you, to help you and what did they do?

They killed him. He was weeping over these cities. Jerusalem, you missed it over and over and over again. And I think Jesus is still weeping over cities.

[25 : 35] I think he's still weeping over Jerusalem because they still don't get it. I think he's weeping over Beijing, London, Paris, Mexico City, come to the United States.

I think he's weeping over San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Miami, Dallas, Angler. How about Hancock?

Is he weeping over Hancock? Yeah. Because we're missing what he has for us. We wave the palm branches.

We want the celebration. We want to say Hosanna. We want to do all those things. But do we want to follow him and what he has for us. He looks out at our cities and what does he see?

Domestic violence, school violence, drug addiction, alcoholism, all kinds of other things. And I think he goes, oh Hancock, oh Hancock.

[26 : 44] He said there in verse 42 of Luke 19, if thou hast known even thou at least in this night day the things which belong unto thy peace but now they are here for mine.

If you had just listened, if you had just followed, how different it could have been. You know, when we look out at our cities and things today, we got it figured out.

It's a drug problem. It's a poverty problem. It's an education problem. Nope. It's a sin problem.

We need Jesus Christ. We need to have forgiveness of sin. We need to have cleansing of our sin. See, it's a sin problem that only Jesus can cure.

Second thing, he was weeping that day for himself. For himself. I mean, you stop and think about this. Jesus made the decision to go to Jerusalem that day.

[27 : 48] And yes, he saw all those things happening. He saw the palm branches. He started all the hosannas and everything. But you ever stop and think, he's riding into the city.

All these people are cheering. And he knows by the end of the week, he's going to be hanging on a cross. You suppose he rode into that city that day in Jerusalem?

You suppose way down at the end of that boulevard? He could see Galgotha, see Calvary, knowing that's where he's going to wind up. Wow.

And yet he came anyway for us. He also was weeping for you and for me. He was weeping for us.

And he was weeping for all those there. You know, when Jesus looked out that day, you think about this. He knows what's going to happen. He knows he's going to wind up on the cross. He's coming into the city.

[28 : 45] They're all cheering and everything. And he's looking out there and he's seeing all of these faces. And as he looks at each and every face, he knows exactly who they are.

He knows their name. He knows their history. He knows their hurts. He knows their pains. He knows everything about them as he looks at each one.

Imagine the people he saw that day. He saw people out there who loved him. Remember blind Bartimaeus?

He was blind and Jesus came and healed him of his blindness. And so here's Bartimaeus now here watching, cheering as he comes because he's not blind anymore.

He's not begging anymore. His life has been totally changed by Jesus. How about the lepers? Did he heal that one day? Those lepers are there. They've been healed.

[29 : 42] They're able to watch and they're doing it with healthy skin. How about Jairus' daughter or Lazarus? Raised from the dead. They look at Jesus with totally different eyes than everybody else because they know him.

Then there are those out there who hate him. some of the Pharisees and scribes, those who were supposed to be the keepers of the law, the spiritual leaders and they're looking at how they can get rid of him.

How can we get rid of this guy? He's causing the problems. He's interfering. He's interfering with our income. He just cleaned out the temple. There were Romans there.

Those Romans are watching and they're watching all the stuff that's going on and they're waiting for a riot or a rebellion to take place. And they're ready to crush anything that happens. He's looking at all those people and they're going, Hosanna, glory to God in the highest, praise him, blessed be the name of the Lord.

And he knows by the end of the week they're going to be going, crucify him. Crucify him. So he looks out at those faces and he's weeping.

[31 : 05] He's weeping for you today. He's weeping for the people in every church, people who aren't in churches. Verses I read a few minutes ago, John chapter 1 verse 11-12, he came into his own and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. He said most of the people would not believe him.

Most of the people rejected him. But those that did, he's in power to become sons of God, to become part of God's family.

We've talked about that recently. To become part of God's family. And how do you do that? Even to them that believe on his name. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and now shall be saved.

what does Jesus see when he looks at you this morning? What does he see when he looks down and he sees you?

[32 : 06] Have you made him the king of kings in your life? Are you devoted to him? Or are you like Judas, the deceiver?

Or even like Peter. Peter was a believer but Peter denied him. How do you view Jesus in your life today? How does Jesus view himself in your life today?

Jesus is not weeping for himself anymore. I believe he is still weeping for our cities and for each one of us. Last thing. Quickly. Appreciating the few that seek.

He's appreciating the few that seek. Back in John chapter 12 where we started he says there in verse 21 the same came therefore to Philip which was of Bethsaida of Galilee and desired him saying sir we would see Jesus.

There were those who were looking for him. Those who were anticipating getting to meet him. Those who were looking to find out things about him. Those who were looking for a chance to talk with him and he might change their lives.

[33 : 20] Why would they be looking for Jesus? Why would we be looking for Jesus? Four things very quickly. Number one to thank him and praise him.

If you know the Lord Jesus Christ is your savior thank him and praise him for what he has done. Thank him for saving someone like you. Thank him for paying a debt for you.

Thank him for loving you even while you were yet a sinner and says Christ died for you. Thank him for his example that we can follow. Thank him for all that he has done.

Thank him like remember the one leper who came back? Thank him like remember the one woman who came wept over him and kissed his feet?

Thank him for all that he has done. Thank him for being merciful. Thank him for being faithful. Thank him for going through all the temptations like we do yet without sin setting an example for us.

[34 : 26] Thank him for being at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. Thank him for not giving up on me. Stop and think about that one for a minute.

Thank him for not giving up on you. He is there waiting willing to help at any time. How about we thank him we look for him we want to see him to be surrounded by his glory.

To be surrounded by his glory. There's a song we haven't sung here in a while we will before the day is over called Face to Face with Christ my Savior.

Face to Face what will it be when with rapture I behold him Jesus Christ who died for me Face to Face I shall behold him far beyond the starry sky Face to Face in all his glory I shall see him by and by.

These men said we would see Jesus. I don't know about you but one of the greatest things I'm looking for is seeing Jesus. there's a Facebook picture that I almost found and put up Bonnie has shown it to me before it's this little girl she's running ready to jump into the arms of Jesus and the title of the painting is First Day in Heaven can you imagine that?

[35 : 52] We get to run and we get to jump into his arms and we get to see him face to face I'm looking forward to that I want to see him so I can do that. He says when he comes again Matthew chapter 25 verse 31 When the Son of Man shall come in his glory and all the holy angels with him then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.

He says he's coming again and Paul said this about it Paul said in Colossians chapter 3 verse 4 he says when Christ who is our life shall appear then we shall also appear with him in glory.

When Christ appears we get to appear with him. If we've gone on before we get to appear with him when he comes. Oh yeah I want to see him.

Number three to look into his face that little girl I mentioned a minute ago to look into his face. Do you remember in Acts when Stephen's being martyred he's being stoned and it talks about the fact that Stephen was there and they're throwing rocks down trying to kill him and he looks up into heaven and he says I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

I always loved that. Stephen's the first martyr. Stephen's giving his life for Christ and he looks up and he says I see God I see Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

[37 : 26] Standing ovation well done Stephen well done our good and faithful servant well done. How about Mary Magdalene at the tomb she runs back to the to the disciples I have seen the Lord or how about the disciples afterwards when Thomas shows up we have seen the Lord how excited are you about seeing the Lord one day how excited are you about seeing him face to face and then number four to undergo the change the change yeah 1st John 3 2 beloved now are we the sons of God and doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is we're going to be like him glorified bodies changed bodies heavenly bodies ready to spend eternity with him to see the glory of God and to be able to be a part of that 1st Corinthians 15 51 and 52 behold I show you a mystery we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed in the moment in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed wow to be changed and have a glorified resurrected body like Jesus are you looking forward to seeing

Jesus are you looking forward to him the only way we're going to do that is have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ where the righteousness of Christ is credited to us it's not our good works it's not our good deeds it's not our faithfulness it's not our it's the fact that we have Jesus Christ in our life it is Christ we were saying a few minutes ago in Christ alone it is all about him every one of you this morning should go I want to see Christ too I want to have the opportunity to thank him I want to be surrounded by his glory I want to be able to look upon his face I want to experience that change and become like him have you confessed your faith in him have you asked him to come into your life if you have not today is the day to do that have you called upon him for salvation if you have not while I'm back there by the back door and you come out through just talk to me say can we talk

I want to know that I am on my way to heaven I want to know that I am going to see him someday I want to know that one day forget this triumphal entry here Jesus is coming back to earth and I want to be part of that triumphal entry I want to be with him when he comes talk to me and I can show you how that can happen take your handbooks come on up buddy