



Believing Christ - Responding to John's Gospel

John 12:1-19 The Acts Before the Final Act

John 12:1-8: Act 1 - Anointed for Burial

<u>Category</u>	<u>John 12</u>	<u>John 13</u>
Time:	Six days before Passover	Before Passover
Companion:	Lazarus	Beloved disciple
Washing feet:	Mary washed Jesus	Jesus washed disciples
Jesus' death:	Day of my burial	Took off robe (implied)
Jesus' departure:	You do not always have me	Hour to depart from the world

(Source: R. Alan Culpepper, *The Gospel and Letters of John*, Nashville: Abingdo, 1998. page 202-3)

- Vs 1 – Six days before Passover – last week of Jesus' earthly ministry
- Vs 2 – Dinner for Jesus – Martha serving and Lazarus reclining with Jesus.
- Vs 3 – Mary anoints Jesus' feet – an act of worship (cf Mark 4:13). With expensive nard important from North India.
- Vs 4-6 – Worth one's year salary of labourer. Yet, Judas was a thief, stealing from their common purse.
- Vs 7-8 – "Leave Her Alone" – it was preparation for Jesus' burial. Unlike the poor, Jesus will not soon be with them.

John 12:9-11: Interlude

- Vs 9 – Lazarus was now also drawing crowds,
- Vs 10-11 – Chief Priests wanted to kill Lazarus too, because on account of him, many were now believing in Jesus.

John 12:12-19: Act 2 - Arrival into Jerusalem

- Entry into Jerusalem recorded in all 4 Gospels (Matt 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40).
- Vs 14 – Jesus found a donkey and sat on it. But actual event was staged by Jesus.
- Jerusalem swollen with pilgrims for Passover – perhaps as much as 120,000 people.
- Vs 13 – Palms were a symbol of Jewish nationalism.
- "Hosanna" – Aramaic phrase that means "Save us now!"
- Quotes from Psalm 118:25-26 – a Messianic Psalm.
- Vs 14-16 – John quotes from Zechariah 9:9-10 – this was fulfilment which the disciples only later understood.

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)