

THE JESUS YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW

Seeing Jesus in John's Gospel

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info

Lesson 6: Jesus Presents Himself as Israel's King

INTRODUCTION



John chapters 11–12 mark a decisive turning point in the Gospel. Jesus performs His greatest public miracle—the raising of Lazarus from the dead—leaving no doubt about His authority over life itself. This miracle accelerates both belief and opposition, setting in motion the final events leading to the cross. At the same time, Jesus enters Jerusalem not as a political conqueror, but as a humble

King who will reign through sacrifice.

READ JOHN CHAPTERS 11–12

A. The Death of Lazarus — Delayed but Purposeful (11:1–16)

Jesus intentionally delays His arrival after hearing of Lazarus's illness. His delay is not neglect, but preparation—so that God's glory might be revealed in a greater way.

B. "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" — Hope Beyond Death (11:17–27)

Jesus comforts Martha and declares one of His most powerful "I AM" statements. He does not merely promise resurrection—**He is resurrection**. Eternal life is found in a person, not an event.

C. Jesus Weeps — Divine Compassion (11:28–37)

Jesus openly weeps at Lazarus's tomb. His tears reveal the depth of His humanity and compassion, even though He knows resurrection is moments away.

D. The Raising of Lazarus — Authority Over Death (11:38–44)

With a commanding word, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb. This miracle proves His divine authority and becomes the final catalyst for the leaders' plot to kill Him.

E. The Plot to Kill Jesus — Fear of Losing Power (11:45–57)

Rather than repenting, the religious leaders harden their hearts. Caiaphas unknowingly prophesies that Jesus will die for the nation—and for the world.

F. Mary Anoints Jesus — Love and Worship (12:1–8)

Mary pours costly perfume on Jesus’ feet, an act of extravagant devotion. Judas criticizes her, revealing his spiritual blindness and greed.

G. The Triumphal Entry — The Humble King (12:9–19)

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy. The crowds praise Him, yet misunderstand the nature of His kingship.

H. The Grain of Wheat — Life Through Death (12:20–26)

Jesus explains that His death is necessary to produce life. True discipleship involves surrender and self-denial.

I. Jesus Predicts His Death — Glory Through the Cross (12:27–36)

Jesus speaks openly about the cross as the path to glory. Though troubled, He submits fully to the Father’s will.

J. Summary of Unbelief — Chosen Blindness (12:37–50)

Despite overwhelming evidence, many refuse to believe. John explains that unbelief is not due to lack of proof, but hardened hearts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus deliberately delay going to Lazarus (John 11:4–6)?

2. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)?

3. Why is Jesus' weeping in John 11:35 so significant?

4. Why did the religious leaders respond to Lazarus's resurrection with a plot to kill Jesus (John 11:47–53)?

5. What does Jesus teach about discipleship in John 12:24–26?

SUMMARY

John 11–12 reveals Jesus as both **Lord over death** and **the humble King who embraces the cross**. The raising of Lazarus makes Jesus' identity unmistakable, yet belief and unbelief become more sharply divided. Jesus is not merely admired—He must be trusted, followed, and worshiped. These chapters prepare us for the cross by showing that death is not defeat, but the pathway to life.