

#13 JOHN C 12, Willhauck C 8 "The Hour Has Come"

I Introductions and announcements, joys and concerns.

II Prayer.

III Review: In John's Gospel the restoration of Lazarus is the climactic episode of Jesus' public ministry, the last of his "Seven Signs". The purpose was to strengthen the faith of the disciples but it also set in motion the planning by the religious authorities to solve the Jesus problem. Jn 11:44-54 states the issues with remarkable clarity.

IV Overview: C 12 is a transition chapter. It includes the Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem and the end of Jesus' public ministry.

V Read Jn 11:44-54. The Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jews meeting. v48 reveals a fear of Roman intervention.

What circumstances would cause Roman intervention?

v 50. State in the most favorable way a justification for the statement by the High Priest. When and why did the Romans come?

v51,52 is John's editorial comment on the statement by the High Priest. How does his view of Jesus' death differ from that of the High Priest?

v53. The point is very blunt: Jesus' life is in danger. Who else did the priestly authorities include in this plan? Jn 12:11.

VI v55-57. Passover, the great springtime pilgrimage festival for the Jews is approaching. The authorities expect Jesus to come.

VII 12:1-8. Six days before Passover, Jesus and party revisit the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. As usual, Martha serves the dinner, Mary provides the drama.

v7. Jesus, although/^{not}omniscient, has a clear view of the danger he is accepting by returning to Jerusalem.

VIII 12:12-19. Because Passover was a time of religious excitement and political tension, the Roman governor came from Caesarea with a contingent of cavalry and infantry to Jerusalem. The governor, Pilate at this time, would be mounted on a war horse and the entry into Jerusalem with flags waving, standards held high, bugles blaring was designed to impress people with Roman power and authority.

Read Zechariah 9:9,10. Jesus, in fulfilling this prophecy, makes a messianic statement. He comes on a young donkey, the humble work animal of the peasants. It symbolized peace not war. The crowd is excited and enthusiastic; the Pharisees are alarmed and upset, v19.

IX 12:20. Some Greeks have come to Jerusalem for Passover. Why? They request a meeting with Jesus. The response is a soliloquy by Jesus. 1. Jesus understands the plot against him and foretells his death, v23,24. 2. To love one's self (psyche) leads to a selfish, limited existence but to be detached from selfish concerns in order to follow Jesus is the way of life. Paraphrase by Gail O'Day, NIB. v 25 3. Those who would be with Jesus must continue to follow him, v26. 4. Jesus' soul is troubled but he refuses to flee, v27. 5. The death of Jesus will bring either universal judgment or salvation. 6. The light has been with us but not much longer. What will replace it?

XAs we think of Palm Sunday, we review the coming week for Jesus.

Sunday: Entry into Jerusalem.

~~Monday~~: Upset the money changers tables, a challenge to the authorities. Tuesday. Teaches openly. The authorities desire to arrest Jesus but are frustrated by his popularity with the crowd. Mk 11:18,12:12.

Wednesday: The authorities give up; they do not want riot at Passover. Mk 14

Thursday: a last meal and discourse with disciples. Arrested later.

Friday: crucified.

XI Next time: JOHN C 13, Willhauck C 9. The last discourse begins. GMx