

**Introduction:**

- Second offering on 21st for the Paddon.
- Healing Service with Lage's this Wednesday.
- It was now almost time! It a powerful phrase that everyone can relate to in some capacity.
  - IE. Sitting in the locker room before the big game.
  - IE. Sitting in my office before the start of a conference.
  - IE. Sitting with the groomsmen in anticipation of going out to marry my bride.
  - "Almost time" is a very emotional, exciting, anxious, anticipatory, eager moment before something that you have been thinking about for a long, long time. What Jesus was waiting for was something bigger than Passover!
- I want you to be able to read of the Passion of the Christ this year with renewed love, understanding and insights this Passover season. I have been getting into the 'head' of John the Apostle and to do that we will take on a big block of scripture. *"The overwhelming impact of reading the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus is that here is a man who knows what is coming, describes what is coming, and performs what is coming, according the purpose of God foretold in Scripture, that he was sent to fulfill. He sets his face like flint to do everything written of him, and he will not turn to the right hand or to the left lest one prediction of his Father in the Old Testament should fall to the ground."* John Piper
  - We see Jesus' laser focus on the cross.
  - We hear Him look forward to bringing glory to the Father and being glorified by Him.
  - The cross and the resurrection are game changers!
- We will attempt to look at three things this morning: Its Almost Time, Jesus Arrives, The Hour Has Come. Three snapshots providing an overview from John's perspective of the last Passover of Jesus.

**I. Almost Time (John 11:55)**

- A. The miracle and the death sentence (11:45 & 46) are set in motion here.
  1. It is not by accident that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead so close to His last Passover.
  2. Raising Lazarus is a miracle of His power over death and a sign pointing to our future who are in Christ. We too, like Lazarus, shall be raised but not to die again.
    - a) Jesus by raising Lazarus has drawn national attention to himself.
    - b) This attention has the people calling him Messiah, Deliverer, King...they are believing in Him. This scares the religious leaders. For Rome may come down on them.
  3. Caiaphas' prophesy that it is better for one man to die for the people than for a whole nation to be destroyed. Jn 11:50-53 From then on the Jewish leaders plan for Jesus death.
    - a) They think they are saving themselves! That is what religious spirits do.
    - b) Love cares about others (that is what Jesus is doing), Religion cares about itself.
  4. The priests also decided to kill Lazarus too because it was because of him the people believed. Death by association. Jn 12:10. "To bad you were raised from dead, cause now we're gonna kill you!"

5. I was reading an AA Alan document from his school of ministry. He was a powerful healing evangelist. He made an interesting point: "Prepare because when this power anointing comes on your life many will be out to destroy it and discredit you." Life in the public eye. When you are lifted up in the eyes of the people someone will be looking to bring you down!
- B. For John it was almost time for Passover. John emphasizes the significance of the Passover and Jesus' final act of compassion there.
1. All of Passover was a sign pointing to the reality of Christ.
    - a) IE. When we see the 'skull and crossbones' sign it makes us think of death and danger.
    - b) IE. Golden Arches makes us think about McDonalds.
    - c) IE. The '√' is the sign for Nike. Nike wants us to think of them when we see the sign.
    - d) Signs are made to direct our thinking not to the sign itself but to what it points to. In the case of the Passover, it was a sign pointing to the Christ.
  2. Passover - is a celebration of deliverance by the strength of God's right hand! In many ways Christianity lost the value of Passover when it became a national religion. When it became a national religion Jews began to be persecuted/blamed for Jesus death, by Christians. We gave up Passover for Good Friday and Easter. We no longer associated Passover with the Passover Lamb. It was a cutting away of the Christians' spiritual roots.
    - a) The lamb without blemish - the Lamb of God, spotless and perfect.
    - b) The blood of the lamb—the blood of Jesus, Lamb of God.
    - c) Blood on the door post and eat the lamb (strength and health for journey). Ps 105:37  
Blood on our hearts and eat the body of Christ - healing.
- C. For Jesus it was almost time to be the Passover Lamb.
1. In the New Testament, Jesus is described as the Passover Lamb
    - a) *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NLT)*
    - b) *"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18-19, NLT)*
    - c) *"Get rid of the old "yeast" ...Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us." (1 Corinthians 5:7, NLT)*
    - d) *"And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony..." (Revelation 12:11, NLT)*
  2. It is therefore symbolic that God specifically stipulated to Israel that the Lamb that was to be slaughtered was to be a "male without defect" (Exodus 12:5), which is the very same description given of Jesus (1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:14).
  3. Jesus is focused on the cross.

## II. Jesus Arrives (John 12:1)

- A. Six days before Passover Jesus arrives in Bethany, in preparation to enter Jerusalem. John 12:1. Jesus sneaks into Bethany. John 11:54 He stops his public ministry and leaves Jerusalem and hides out in the wilderness near Ephraim.
1. Dinner with Lazarus a former dead man! Martha, Mary and Lazarus are all there.
  2. The dinner is in honor of Jesus. Sounds almost like the marriage supper of the Lamb. The dead are alive now and desiring to celebrate Jesus and to honor Him.
  3. Mary anoints Jesus with expensive perfume. *"It is a beautiful thing when the worth of Jesus and the love of his followers match – when the value of his perfections and the intensity of our affections correspond."* John Piper.
  4. *'Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?'* These words show us two things: how expensive the ointment really was and how scandalous it is when our hearts don't match the worth of Jesus. Judas will eventually die at his own hands. And he is paving the way right now.
    - a) Jesus rebukes Judas, "Leave her alone."
    - b) Don't infect her with your worldliness!
    - c) Don't listen to any voice that calls you to moderate, cool down your love for Jesus.
- B. Day five, John points this out. It is on day five that the sacrificial lambs are brought into Jerusalem for the Passover. It just 'happens' to be the day that Jesus enters Jerusalem.
1. Triumphal Entry - Palm Sunday:
    - a) The shouts of "Hosanna" meant "save now," and the palm branches symbolized goodness and victory.
    - b) Interestingly, at the end of the Bible, people will wave palm branches once again to praise and honor Jesus Christ: *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.* (Revelation 7:9, NIV)
    - c) Those who came out to greet Jesus threw down their cloaks on the path where Jesus rode as an act of homage and submission. *"Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt."* (Zechariah 9:9, NLT)
  2. Jesus arrives and it is time for Jesus to enter into His glory. *"Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory."* (John 12:23, NLT)
  3. To enter into glory He must die. He knows His death will produce many new lives.
  4. His one desire, Father bring glory to your name. God is glorified in the rescue of sinners.
  5. The time has come for Satan, the ruler of this world to be cast out. *"From this moment on, everything in this world is about to change, for the ruler of this dark world will be overthrown."* (John 12:31, TPT) What is the game changer? Satan no longer has valid accusation of unforgiven sin against us. Death has lost its sting!!!

**III. The Hour Has Come (John 13:1)**

- A. It is time to leave. 13:1
  - 1. It is time to leave His disciples and this world.
  - 2. His family that He has grown to love He must now trust to the Father and leave them.
- B. It is time to return.
  - 1. Jesus must return to the Father to complete his mission.
  - 2. He was sent into the world. When one is sent the expectation is to return having fulfilled the mission. Bring life to humanity, taking away Satans authority, defeating death, hell and the grave.
- C. It is time to show the full extent of His love and wash feet. John 13:7
  - 1. Peter you do not understand...unless I wash you, you have no part with me.
  - 2. Peter did not want Jesus to be dishonored by washing feet.
  - 3. "Peter, unless you let me bear your dishonor, your uncleanness, you can't be my disciple."
  - 4. You gotta loves Jesus words to Peter, "*You are clean!*" John 13:10

**Conclusion:**

- It is almost time...for you to see the worth of the Son of God and to honor Him with your life.
- Jesus had all this expectation because He knew He would obey the Father, be glorified by the Father and provide a way for all who would believe to become His children.