

## (41) Returns to Home of Mary & Martha (Jn. 11:55-12:8)

### (42) Plot to Kill Lazarus (Jn. 12:9-11)

1. This is the third explicit reference to Passover in John (2:13; 6:4; 11:55), and the fourth since His public ministry began (cf. Jn. 5:1).
2. Ceremonial purification was a significant preparation for Passover observance and in many cases an entire week would be spent doing this (Num. 9:6-14).
3. The crowds were anxious to see whether Jesus would come or not (Jn. 11:56-57 cf. 6:3-4; 7:10-13).
4. On Saturday, six days before Passover (Nisan 8), Jesus came to Bethany (Jn. 12:1).
  - a. Bethany was the home of Lazarus, Mary & Martha (Jn. 11:1,18).
  - b. Bethany will be where Jesus will stay each night of the passion week (Mt. 21:17; Mk. 11:11,12).
  - c. Bethany will be the place of His ascension (Lk. 24:50).
5. The dinner mentioned here by John (Jn. 12:2-8) is recorded by Matthew & Mark on the night Judas contracts for Jesus' murder—Wednesday night, Nisan 12 (Matt. 26:6-13,14-16; Mk. 14:3-9,10-11). [FW@J15]
  - a. John gives the best chronology placing the dinner before the Triumphal Entry.
  - b. Matthew and Mark describe the dinner as a flashback in context for Judas' bargain [FW@J16].
  - c. Luke does not detail this anointing although he did previously describe a different occasion in the Galilean ministry (Lk. 7:36-39) [GM22].
  - d. The dinner was hosted by Simon the former leper (Mt. 26:6; Mk. 14:3) and featured Lazarus the former dead guy (Jn. 11:43,44; 12:1,2,9-11).
  - e. Once again, Martha is busy serving and Mary is at Christ's feet (cf. Lk. 10:38-42) [LJ&PM9].
6. John records Judas' indignation (Jn. 12:4-6), but Matthew & Mark record additional disciples with a similar sentiment (Mt. 26:8-9; Mk. 14:4-5).
7. Jesus' message establishes a significant distinction between habitual ministry occasions and unique ministry occasions (Mt. 26:10-13; Mk. 14:6-9; Jn. 12:7-8).
  - a. Believers and unbelievers will have their regular times and their opportune times (Jn. 7:6).
  - b. Open doors and wide open doors are important for believers to pay attention to (Acts 14:27; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 16:9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 2:12).
  - c. The window of opportunity may not remain open for a very long period of time (Jn. 7:33,34; 9:4,5; 12:35; 13:33; 14:19; 16:16-19).
  - d. Even when the opportunity is present, appropriate priorities and proportions must be maintained (Gal. 6:10).
8. On Sunday, Nisan 9, Lazarus became an additional attraction for folks and an additional testimony for faith in Jesus (Jn. 12:9,11). This reality became an additional occasion for the religious leaders to plot additional murder (Jn. 12:10).