

Andy Deane • 7/10/22
The Glory of God: John 12

What would be an appropriate response toward Jesus after He raised Lazarus from the dead? This is a relevant question because every Christ follower has had a Lazarus-like moment as we've been transformed from spiritually dead to alive.

Let's look 4 ways we can respond to God's goodness toward us:

#1 Respond with celebration & hospitality:

John 12:1-2, ¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

- 1 Peter 4:9, Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- Honor Christ by celebrating Him (baptism party, baby dedication celebration, Easter, Christmas)
- Honor Christ by celebrating *like* Him (gather over a meal with those far from God)
- Nehemiah 8:10, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks...This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

#2 Respond with sacrificial giving:

John 12:3-8, ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

- There is no measuring the value of Jesus, but our gifts should flow from our gratitude for His sacrifice.
- Remember that the love of money can blind us to Jesus' worth.
- Sacrificial gifts are used by God to bless and inspire others.

#3 Respond by declaring Jesus as king:

John 12:12-15, ¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!", "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!", "Blessed is the king of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

- They looked to Jesus as a political savior, not a spiritual savior.
- Jesus rode a young donkey to fulfill the Zechariah 9:9 prophecy, but also to demonstrate that the character of His kingdom is gentle & meek.
- Christ followers surrender their lives for Jesus to rule as king over them.

#4 Respond with service to God:

John 12:20-26, ²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. ²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

- More than just seeking an audience with the king, we must imitate Him.
- "Loves their life" means you always say yes to your personal desires for comfort and convenience (even if God wants you to do something else).
- "Hates their life" means you realize that following God is more important than your personal desires.
- A servant is someone who wants to be where Jesus is. So, what needs would Jesus notice? Do that, *with* Him.
- Want to serve? Text VBS to 951-425-4425 to serve our kids July 25-29.

Responding like this is less difficult when we remember that Jesus walked His difficult path, before asking us to walk ours:

John 12:27-33, ²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine." ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

- God draws "all people" to Himself. There is no exclusion from God's mercy!
- All are invited, and that includes you, no matter what your past looks like.