

Knowing Jesus as the Son of God
John 12 Discussion Questions
3/19/17

1. In **John 6:15** we saw where Jesus withdrew when he perceived the crowd wanted to make him king. However, in **John 12** we see Jesus embracing the title of king. Why did Jesus seem to walk away from the title early in his ministry yet embrace the title later in his ministry?
2. We learn that Jesus is the King of the world (**vv.19-20**) and Luke's account lets us know he is the king even of the creation (**Luke 19:40**). Do you think of Jesus as the King who rightfully demands worship and allegiance? Do most people think of Jesus in this way? Why or why not?
3. When a person makes the kind of claim Jesus makes, it demands a response. We see several responses in our text and we see these same responses today. The first response is rejection. The religious leadership is so angry with Jesus and opposed to him they make plans to put Lazarus to death (**v.10**). Why do they want Lazarus to die?
4. We discover that their opposition to Jesus is not merely intellectual. They claim He is guilty of blasphemy but his real "crime" is that he has threatened their well-being. What are some of the common intellectual arguments people give for not believing in Jesus? In your personal experience, when you have rejected Jesus as King of your life, have your reasons been more intellectual or more moral? Do you agree that the ultimate reason for rejecting Jesus is often more of a heart/moral issue and less of an intellectual issue? Explain.
5. The second reaction to Jesus' claim is confusion (**v.16**). Some people in the church today are like the disciples in that they understand some pieces of the puzzle, but they don't seem to be able to put the full puzzle together. It was suggested that a person who is confused will be unable to succinctly and clearly explain the gospel. Do you agree with this assessment? Explain. It was also suggested that a person who is confused will be unable to succinctly and clearly explain the storyline of the Bible. Do you agree with this assessment? Explain.
6. What have been the keys in your life for how you moved from more confusion to less confusion?
7. The third reaction to following Jesus is those who follow him superficially. Many in this crowd who are wanting to see Jesus become king are the same people who saw Him raise Lazarus from the dead. Yet they don't believe in him (**v.37**), and this crowd will shout "crucify him" in less than one week. Does this surprise you? What are some lessons we should learn from this?
8. If the crowds weren't following Him for good reasons, why were they following him? What are some unhealthy reasons why we might be following him?
9. The fourth response is to follow Jesus faithfully. According to **vv.24-25** what are some of the key characteristics of a person who follows faithfully. How is this different from the person who follows superficially?
10. It was mentioned that if we are following Jesus faithfully then we should be intentionally looking at the people God has sovereignly placed in our lives to build relationships with them, pray for them, and

share the gospel with them. What are some of the relationships God has placed in your life that you know you need to be developing? What steps do you need to take?

11. Can you think of some examples of people you know who have followed faithfully? What are some of the unique characteristics of this person's life that caused you to think of him/her?

12. We discover several reasons why we should be motivated to follow Jesus as King, even when it's difficult. The first is gaining life (**v.25**). The second is gaining honor (**v.26**). The third is because you are moved by what Jesus has done for you at the cross. What has been the main motivating factor in your life to follow Jesus as King when it was difficult?

13. If a person is not motivated to follow and cherish Jesus like Mary in **v.3**, should this be a concern? How would you counsel someone who is motivated to follow Jesus because of the benefits but they are not really motivated by Who He is and what He's done?