



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Examine the Evidence

Date: September 21, 2025

Scripture Text: John 12:12-50

Notes:

Jesus is entering the final week leading up to His crucifixion. His hour is fast approaching. He has just raised Lazarus from the dead ([John 11:1-14](#)). For some, they believed as a result. For the religious leadership, they were stirred up all the more to find a way for Jesus to be killed. In today's passage, this is the last public engagement Jesus has before He is crucified. For Him, this will be the last time He makes His case before the people that He is the promised Messiah. Let's take a moment to *examine the evidence*.

I. The Demonstration of Jesus ([John 12:12-19](#))

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is one of the few events mentioned in all 4 gospels. His entry in this fashion was a recognition that He was indeed a King. Arriving with the wave of palm branches and the people shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" was reminiscent of King David's entrance into the city. The people's celebration was appropriate, but their expectations were off. They expected Messiah would be an earthly ruler. Secondly, Jesus' actions fulfilled prophetic scripture. [Zech. 9:9](#) describes these events in detail, hundreds of years prior. How the Messiah would be riding a donkey's colt. Jesus' demonstration was evidence that He was the Messiah.

- Describe your thoughts if you had been one of those in the crowd upon Jesus' entrance into the city.
- How did this demonstration present evidence that Jesus was the Messiah?
- How did the people miss this evidence?
- What were they expecting the Messiah to be?
- How did Jesus not meet those expectations?
- Their expectations were NOT based on scripture. How might we miss the work of God by basing our expectations of Jesus on something other than what is in the Bible?

II. The Declaration of Jesus ([John 12:20-36](#))

Jesus' crucifixion is drawing near and is starting to be apparent in Him as He makes reference to it. He states that this was the purpose for which He came. Prior to that, though, He encouraged His disciples that to serve Him requires followship. Where you find Jesus, you'll find His followers. He also promises that those who do faithfully follow Him, they will be honored by God the Father.



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- In [vs. 24](#) Jesus states that “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”
 - How did that apply to Jesus?
 - How does that apply to us?
- In [vs. 26](#) Jesus states “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me”.
 - What does it look like to follow Jesus?
- He also states, “where I am, there My servant will be also”.
 - Where do we find Jesus today?
 - As His followers (disciples) how can we be with Him?
- How is the declaration He makes in this passage evidence that He is the Messiah?

III. The Decision for Jesus (John 12:37-50)

Even as the evidence was mounting that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, there were still those who would not believe. Their response was also prophetic as Isaiah pointed out in [Isa 53:1](#) and [Isa 6:10](#). Jesus finishes by reminding His listeners that the words He speaks are not His own, but from the heavenly Father. To see Jesus is to see God. To hear Jesus is to hear God.

- [Vss. 42-43](#), describes those who did believe in Jesus as the Messiah, but did not confess it. They were more concerned about receiving the approval of men rather than of God.
 - How can we fall into that perspective today, to be more concerned about what others think of us rather than what God thinks of us?
 - What can we do to strengthen our commitment to God each day?
- In what ways are God and Jesus alike (“He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.” [\(vs. 45\)](#))
- How can we be more like Jesus?

“Those who refuse to hear Jesus and accept saving faith will condemn themselves, for he who came to illumine came not to judge but to save. Therefore, he who disobeys and subjects himself to the greatest miseries can only blame himself as justly punished.”

Cyril of Alexandria (376–444)