



ICEBREAKER: What is a favorite gift you have received? What is a favorite gift you have given?

READ: John 12:1-26

"Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin"--William Temple, Readings in St. John's Gospel

CONTENT QUESTIONS

I. Worship and Greed :: Read John 12:1-8

"For Jesus, greed is not only love of money, but excessive anxiety about it. He lays out the reason our emotions are so powerfully controlled by our bank account--"a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." To "consist" of your possessions is to be defined by what you own and consume. The term describes a personal identity based on money. It refers to people who, if they lose their wealth, do not have a "self" left, for their personal worth is based on their financial worth."

--Tim Keller, Counterfeit Gods

1. What can we learn from this passage as to why we should worship Jesus? What can we learn from Mary's worship of Jesus (ex.: her recognition, humility and generosity)?
2. Judas cover's up his greed with a false image of concern for others (vs. 5-6). How do you justify your sin (idolatry) with a false image of godliness? Examples?
3. What are challenges to "not being defined by what you own and consume" living in our culture? How can you sacrifice to be generous daily (in order to worship Jesus)? (Be specific)

II. Worship and Power:: Read John 12:9-19

"When John says that the crowd 'went out to meet him,' this is a common expression used for cities meeting their triumphant, returning king. In a Jewish context, "Hosanna" was used to greet such incoming kings (2 Sam. 14:4, 2 Kings 6:26)."--Gary Burge, John (NIVAC)

1. The chief priests would rather destroy the evidence of Jesus' miracles, than believe in Jesus (vs. 10-11). How do you not want to give up power (control) to do God's will? How does this hinder your ability to worship Jesus?
2. How can we respond to Jesus as our King, Savior, and God like at His Triumphal Entry (see quote above)? How does His victory over Satan, sin, and death elicit this response?
3. How can we "bear witness" to the things Christ has done in our lives so that others may come to him (vs. 17-18)? Examples?

III. Experiencing True Worship :: Read John 12:20-26

"The person who loves his life will lose it: it could not be otherwise, for to love one's life is a fundamental denial of God's sovereignty, of God's rights, and a brazen elevation of self to the apogee of one's perception, and therefore an idolatrous focus on self, which is the heart of all sin. Such a person loses his life, i.e. causes his own perdition. By contrast, the one who hates his life will keep it for eternal life. This person denies himself, or, to use another of Jesus' metaphors, takes up his cross daily, i.e. he chooses not to pander to self-interest but at the deepest level of his being declines to make himself the focus of his interest and perception, thereby dying." --D.A. Carson, John

1. What does Jesus point to when the Greeks want to "see" him? How does his glorification (life, death, resurrection, exaltation) allow people to truly see (experience) him (12:24)?
2. What is counter-cultural (in America) about the idea of gaining life through losing it and losing life through loving it too much (vs. 25 and quote above)?
3. What are some specific, practical ways you can die to yourself and serve God by serving others in your spheres of life (family, neighborhood, work, those in need, city, etc.)?

CONNECTING QUESTIONS

1. What are obstacles that hold you back from truly worshiping God (greed, power, experience etc.)? Why do you feel like giving it up will be a loss?
2. What is one area of your life you need to believe the Gospel (12:23-24), die to your old self (12:25), and worship Jesus (12:26)?
3. What is one passage, thought or idea that stood out to you in this lesson? Why? How can the group pray for you to apply it to your life?