



In the Flesh – John 11-12

February 18 | Weekly Devotionals

Section 1: Introduction

Today, we're engaging with John 11-12 - the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus claiming to be the "Resurrection and the Life," and Jesus having his feet anointed with oil. This is where the plot leading to Jesus' crucifixion thickens.

In John 11, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, showcasing his power over death and eliciting belief among witnesses. The religious leaders, troubled by Jesus' growing popularity and fearing Roman intervention, plot to kill him. In John 12, Jesus attends a dinner in his honor, where Mary anoints his feet with costly perfume. Judas, objecting to the extravagance, reveals his betrayal. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem follows, with the crowd hailing Jesus as the Messiah. Despite the acclaim, Jesus speaks of his impending death and glorification, emphasizing the need for disciples to follow and serve him.

Read all of John 11-12. As you read, note anything you learn from this text about the person of Jesus Christ, resurrection, people's interactions with Jesus, etc. in the space below.

Section 2: Spend time in the passage

Engage with John 11-12 prayerfully.

- Explore the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders in John 11. How does their plot to kill Jesus reflect a turning point in the narrative, leading to the events in John 12?

- Consider the diverse responses to Jesus in John 11-12, ranging from belief to opposition. List those out in the space below. Then, reflect on how these reactions mirror the ongoing themes of belief and unbelief in the Gospel of John. How might they resonate with your own personal experiences of encountering Jesus?

- Consider the symbolic significance of Mary anointing Jesus with perfume in John 12. How does this act foreshadow Jesus's death, and what deeper meaning does it carry within the context of the narrative?

Section 3: Reflection question

- Reflect on moments when your faith faced opposition or skepticism. How does the Jesus' claim to be the "Resurrection and the Life" affect you when you've felt that opposition or skepticism?
- Are there any areas of your life you need Jesus to revive and resurrect? What are they? Write a prayer to God after reflecting, asking him to do just that.
- Contemplate Mary's act of anointing Jesus with costly perfume. In what ways does her sacrificial expression of love resonate with your understanding of devotion to Christ? How might it influence your own acts of love and worship?
- Consider the crowd's expectations during the triumphal entry. How have your expectations of Jesus shaped your understanding of his role in your life? How does Jesus's description of his impending death challenge those expectations?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using John 11-12 and your reflections, write out a prayer in response to your time in God's Word today.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get John 11-12 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out John 11:25-26 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. Memorize John 11:25-26 using various techniques such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm. Take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Regularly review and practice the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.