



## Portrait of Christ

*Sketches in the Gospel of John*

Inductive Discovery Lesson 13  
**John 12:1-50**

### Jesus: Son of Man

Jesus was a wanted man.

The religious leaders wanted Jesus out of the way. Jealous of His power to persuade a crowd, they put a warrant out for His arrest. For their own reasons, they wanted Jesus to die—they didn't care what the Son of Man came to do.

*"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45

The people wanted Jesus for a king. They longed for a conquering hero to break Rome's grip and restore their nation to its former glory. But they misunderstood the freedom that the Son of Man came to bring.

*"My kingdom is not of this world..."* John 18:36

*"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."* Matthew 25:31

The Greeks wanted to meet Jesus. As God-fearing Gentiles, they sought to know the man whose wisdom and teaching astounded even the most educated leaders of the day. But Jesus told them what it would mean to follow the Son of Man.

*"The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified...anyone who wants to be My disciple must follow Me...and the Father will honor anyone who serves Me."* John 12:23,26

Mary wanted to worship Jesus; that's what comes from sitting at His feet and listening to His voice. So she chose to express her love for Jesus in a tangible way. Some only saw expensive perfume being poured on the Lord's feet, but the Son of Man saw inexpressible devotion spilling from her heart.

*"The Son of Man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him...she has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for burial."* Mark 9:31 & 14:8



**Son of Man**...was Jesus' favorite term for Himself. It describes the servant role He willingly assumed. Sometimes the term is used to describe His divine authority, His sacrificial role and His future glory when He returns. By taking on this title in Mark 13:26 and 14:62, Jesus established Himself as the fulfillment of the heavenly authority figure of Daniel 7 who is granted the right to come to earth, rule and judge on behalf of God.

The term blends the heavenly and earthly aspects of Christ. Because of His divine nature, God grants authority to Jesus to forgive sin. Because of His earthly purpose to be a ransom for many, He must suffer, be rejected, betrayed and killed, finally to rise again. While others may not have immediately grasped what Jesus meant by this title, Jesus used it to claim authority, demonstrate power and assume responsibilities no other man could.

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**Working Text for John 12:1-50**  
English Standard Version (ESV)

**1** Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at the table. **3** Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, **5** “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” **6** He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. **7** Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. **8** The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me.” **9** When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. **10** So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, **11** because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

**12** The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” **14** And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, **15** “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!” **16** His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him. **17** The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. **18** The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign. **19** So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him.”

**20** Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. **21** So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” **22** Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it

for eternal life. **26** If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

**27** “Now is My soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. **28** Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” **29** The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” **30** Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not Mine. **31** Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. **32** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.” **33** He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die. **34** So the crowd answered Him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” **35** So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. **36** While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” When Jesus had said these things, He departed and hid Himself from them.

**37** Though He had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in Him, **38** so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” **39** Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, **40** “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” **41** Isaiah said these things because he saw His glory and spoke of Him. **42** Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in Him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; **43** for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

**44** And Jesus cried out and said, “Whoever believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. **45** And whoever sees Me sees Him who sent Me. **46** I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness. **47** If anyone hears My words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. **48** The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. **49** For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given Me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. **50** And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told Me.”









**INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?***

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

**APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?***

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

**John 12:1-11**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ?

**John 12:12-19**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ?

**John 12:20-36**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ?

**John 12:37-50**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ?

## Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. \_\_\_\_\_

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Give a simple title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.

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## Take A Closer Look

**“If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me;  
and where I am, there will My servant be also.  
If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”**

**John 12:26** ESV

## Memorize God’s Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

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## Meditate on God’s Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God’s Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

(Challenge alert: You won’t always see an obvious answer directly from the verse.)

**Look up.** What does this verse show you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, or His promises.)

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**Look around.** What does this teach you about life or people in general?

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**Look within.** What does this teach you about yourself?

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**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

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### ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

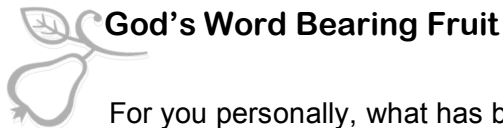
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### **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter?  
How will you put what you have learned into practice?

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### **Something to Think About . . .**

*Mary therefore took a pound of very costly perfume...*

"If there be any reserve in my giving to Him who loved me so,  
that He gave His dearest for me, then I know nothing of Calvary love."

Amy Carmichael

**Message Notes:**

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