

20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 16 (April 14-20, 2019)

All of my devotions for Holy Week come from John, my favorite gospel.

Sunday, April 14 (read John 12:12-16)

*At first His disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was **glorified** did they realize that these things had been written about Him and that **they** had done these things to Him. (John 12:16, emphasis mine)*

Today is Palm Sunday so I want you to read my favorite account of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as He rode on the back of a donkey. The events of the day were prophesied in Psalm 118:25-26 and Zechariah 9:9. Today's written verse tells us that the disciples did not make the correct application of these Scriptures until Jesus had been glorified by His death and resurrection. They certainly did not understand that He **had to** die for **their sins** as well as the sins of the entire world. When Jesus is glorified in our lives, we will also realize that the Bible is totally accurate, and it is **our sins and His love for us** that placed Him on Calvary.

Monday, April 15 (read John 12:17-19)

So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!" (John 12:19)

Jesus knew when He raised Lazarus from the dead that it would cause a reaction that would lead to **His own death** as well as **another** death for His dear friend (John 12:9-11). That's why He wept prior to calling Lazarus out of Heaven and out of the tomb (John 11:35). That powerful event aroused the jealousy of the self-righteous Pharisees because witnesses "continued to spread the word" (v. 17), and revival was taking place (v. 18). I find joy in the fact that the legalistic Pharisees thought they were losing the battle just before Jesus was crucified. In today's society, the exact opposite is true. **Evangelistic Christians** seem to be losing the battle against the opinions of a country and a world that is against God and His Word. Can His return be far away?

Tuesday, April 16 (read John 12:20-22)

"Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." (John 12:21b)

Today's focus verse hangs in my office along with other verses that have special meaning to me. This is a constant reminder that if people see and hear from **Roger**, I have failed them. They come to church and read these devotions to see and experience the power of **Jesus Christ**. My calling is to lead them to Jesus. "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30). In the entire reading assignment for today, the Greeks who went up to worship in Jerusalem must have felt out of place in this Jewish city, because they went first to Philip and Andrew, the two disciples with Greek names (v. 20-21a). Is there anyone in your community who would feel uncomfortable in your church? Could God be guiding you to lead them to Jesus, invite them to church, and introduce them to other Christians? Andrew is not as famous as his brother, Peter, but every time he appears in Scripture, he is bringing someone to Jesus (examples: John 1:40-42, 6:8-9). Is there any other role for a Christian more important than this?

Wednesday – April 17 (read John 12:23-26)

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24)

Knowing that His death is near, Jesus says, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be **glorified**” (v. 23, emphasis mine). Do not miss the fact that His painful death actually brings **glory** to Him. He will now return to His Father and to the glory He had before the world began (see John 17:5). It was necessary that He give His life for us so that we could be righteous in God’s eyes (see 2 Corinthians 5:21 & Ephesians 1:4). As a result of His death on Calvary, all who believe in Him will spend eternity in Heaven. That’s what Jesus means in today’s printed verse. He wants us to be with Him and to see His glory (see John 17:24). All who receive Him as their Savior are called to release their grip on their own lives and follow Him. The Father will honor anyone who serves His Son (v. 25-26).

Thursday – April 18 (read John 12:27-29)

“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.” (John 12:27)

Jesus knew full well that He **had to** face the cruel cross of Calvary. The reason He left Heaven and took a human body was so that He could become a sacrifice, acceptable to His Holy Father (v. 27). For any human, the **pain** of the cross would be excruciating; for God’s Son, the **separation** from His Father would be a new and horrible experience. The price was unbelievably high, but Jesus would have done it to save **one sinner** from eternal separation from God (John 3:16). The Father speaks from Heaven in answer to His Son’s prayer. God had spoken out loud to Jesus on at least two other occasions when others were present (see Matthew 3:17 & 17:5). Everything Jesus said and did while on earth was to bring glory to His Father (v. 28). Now He wants us to follow His example and bring glory to God by the life we live on earth (see Matthew 5:16).

Friday – April 19 (read John 12:30-33)

“But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” (John 12:32)

Many Christians do not realize that Satan is the “prince of this world” (v. 31). They wonder why there is so much pain, suffering, dissension and death in this fallen world. It’s because the earth has been temporarily deeded to the devil (see Luke 4:5-7) until Jesus breaks the seals during the tribulation and reclaims His possession (see Revelation 6). Jesus **had to** be “lifted up from the earth” on Calvary to break Satan’s hold on lost mankind and to draw all men to Himself. I chose this text for Good Friday for a special reason: His death on Calvary allows any individual to come into His presence and be saved. Praise God throughout this sacred day for the plan of salvation that was accomplished on Good Friday. The day was painful to Him, but it is certainly good for us!

Saturday – April 20 (read John 12:34-36)

The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. (John 12:35b)

I hope you are among those in verse 34 who ask, “Who is this ‘Son of Man’?” Many people have been to church on Easter more than any other Sunday. That does not mean that they know Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord or that they understand the reason for His death and resurrection. I want you to seek His face and to love Him more than **anything** or **anybody** in the world. I want you to walk in the light (John 8:12 & 1 John 1:7), not in the darkness. I want you to be absolutely sure of your salvation because of your continuing relationship with Him and not because of an emotional experience you may have had as a young person. The only way to be this assured is to walk daily with “the light of the world” (see John 8:12). Then you will certainly know where you are going!