



Faith Refused

The study of scripture is a never ending discovery of the inclusive and mysterious plan of God to save the world!

The Gospel of John is actually broken into two clear segments:

The book of signs (John 12:1-12)

The book of glory (John 12:13-21)

I. My palms

John 12:3 (NIV) "Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

II. Our palms

John 12:12-13 (NIV) "The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

III. Their palms

John 12:20-21 (NIV) "Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."

John 12:23-24 (NIV) "Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, 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."

IV. His palms

John 12: 27-28 (NIV) "Now my soul 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. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

John 12:32 (NIV) "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Conclusion: Despite these many expressions of worship, love and sacrifice, people still refused to believe!

John 12:37 (NIV) "Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him."

Small Group Questions

1. The first 12 chapters of the book of John are the signs, the miracles, the demonstrations and the teachings that Jesus used for 3 ½ years to prove that he was the Son of God. Why would people still not believe in Him?
2. Of the 4 expressions of "palms", was there one that particularly touched your life? If so, which one (or two) and why?
3. Of the 4 expressions of "palms", which one would you pray would be more easily and frequently experienced by God's grace in your life?
4. Why do you believe that we find it so difficult to put our full trust in Jesus in light of all that He has done for us?
5. As you look toward Easter, how does this chapter help you to prepare for the resurrection and the mighty demonstration of Jesus' victory over death?