

**Becoming A Devoted Follower Of Jesus**  
**Our Worship Is To Transform Us – John 12**  
**Cornerstone Church Of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**January 7, 2024**

**Sermon Notes**

**Cornerstone's 2024 Vision: To become a devoted follower of Jesus.**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> 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!**" <sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, <sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, **your king is coming**, seated on a donkey's colt." <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Now **the crowd** that was with him when he called **Lazarus** from the tomb and raised him from the dead **continued to spread the word.** <sup>18</sup> Many people, **because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign**, went out to meet him. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" **John 12:12-19 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some **Greeks** among those who went up to worship at the Feast. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "**The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.**" <sup>24</sup> 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 12:20-24 (NIV)**

**What Does It Mean To Be A Devoted Follower Of Jesus?**

**1. Our Worship Of Jesus Is To Transform Us**

<sup>25</sup> The man who loves his life will **lose it**, while the man who hates his life in this world will **keep it for eternal life.** <sup>26</sup> **Whoever serves me must follow me;** and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who **serves me.** <sup>27</sup> "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.** <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "**I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.**" <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had **thundered**; others said an **angel had spoken to him.** <sup>30</sup> Jesus said, "This voice was **for your benefit**, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for **judgment on this world**; now the **prince of this world will be driven out.** <sup>32</sup> **But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.**" <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. **John 12:25-33 (NIV)**

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was **pierced** for our transgressions, he was **crushed** for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. **Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV)**

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<sup>34</sup> The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that *the Christ will remain forever*, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. **Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you.** The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> **Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.**" When he had finished speaking, **Jesus left and hid himself from them.**

**John 12:20-36 (NIV)**

<sup>37</sup> Even after Jesus had done all these **miraculous signs** in their presence, **they still would not believe in him.** <sup>38</sup> This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" <sup>39</sup> For this reason they could not believe, because, as **Isaiah** says elsewhere: <sup>40</sup> **"He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts,** so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn--and I would heal them."<sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.<sup>42</sup> Yet at the **same time many even among the leaders believed in him.** But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for **they loved praise from men more than praise from God.** **John 12:37-43 (NIV)**

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. **Isaiah 55:6-7 (NIV)**

<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the **one who sent me.** <sup>45</sup> When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me.<sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as a **light**, so that **no one** who believes in me **should stay in darkness.** <sup>47</sup> "As for the person **who hears my words but does not keep them,** I do not judge him. **For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.** <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one **who rejects me and does not accept my words;** that **very word which I spoke will condemn him** at the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak of my own accord, but **the Father** who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. <sup>50</sup> **I know that His command leads to eternal life.** So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

**John 12:44-50 (NIV)**

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## **Cornerstone's 2024 Vision: To become a devoted follower of Jesus**

➤ **In Your worship, will you choose to be transformed by His mercy & grace?**

### **My next right step, I will:**

Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

Sign up for a small group [M-T-W-Th-F]  Couples  Men's  Women's

Follow Jesus in Believer's Baptism.

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**Small Group Leader:** Choose how many questions that will honor your time commitment. Encourage everyone to participate in either a question, reading or prayer. If using this as a family, use the icebreaker section to go deeper on Sunday's teaching.

**Open in Prayer.**

**Icebreaker:** Who is someone you admire as a devoted follower of Jesus?  
Why do you admire them?

How would you describe what a devoted follower of Jesus looks like?

Today some might say, "It doesn't matter what or whom you worship as long as you worship."

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

Why does our motive for worship matter?

**Cornerstone's 2024 Vision: To become a devoted follower of Jesus**

**Read John 12:12-24**

Why were most people singing and shouting praises to Jesus?

What draws you to sing and praise Jesus?

What are you hoping Jesus will do for you?

What brings Gentiles to Jerusalem during a Jewish feast?

Jesus said several times that "his time had not come" (2:4; 7:6, 30); what regarding this request from the Greeks caused him to say, "his time had come?"

What is the significance of verses 23-24?

**What Does It Mean To Be A Devoted Follower Of Jesus?**

**1. Our Worship Of Jesus Is To Transform Us**

**Read John 12:23-33**

Jesus clearly describes His purpose is to die for the sins of the world. How does this revelation change your heart of worship?

Jesus describes that his heart was trouble because of the burden he must go through. Describe the weight of what Jesus would do for the sins of the world.

How does Jesus describe what a follower of him looks like? 23-26

**Read Isaiah 53:4-5**

How does Isaiah describe the Messiah?

How has Jesus changed you?

Where do you still need transformation?

What warning does Jesus give to the crowd? 34-36

How does our rejection of God and divine hardening work together? 34-43

**Read Isaiah 55:6-7**

How would you describe your heart in following God?

**Read John 12:44-50**

If we reject Jesus, what will be our judgement? Why?

In Your worship, will you choose to be transformed by His mercy & grace?

**Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary**

This chapter of John's Gospel highlights this momentous paradigm shift by describing several acts of worship, beginning with Mary's spontaneous and extravagant adoration. From her we learn that worship should be an outpouring of complete devotion, holding back nothing, expressed by a sincere heart. Too often, however, we enter the church sanctuary at the appointed time, go through motions at the direction of a worship leader, sing without feeling, and then leave the building as empty as we came. How often we hear the complaint, "I didn't get anything out of worship this week."

In the days you have before next Sunday, prepare yourself for worship with three simple activities.

1. Begin a list of blessings on a notepad—all the ways God has protected you from harm or provided for your needs. Keep it somewhere handy, like your desk at work, the refrigerator door, or the kitchen counter. Expand the list as things occur to you. Worship flows naturally from a grateful heart.
2. For each of the next few days, print on a small card one of God's attributes, such as omniscience, omnipotence, sovereignty, compassion, love, steadfastness . . . Then, keep it in your pocket or someplace you'll contact it often. Throughout the day, meditate on how this attribute makes God worthy of worship. Consider how this attribute benefits you personally.
3. Make a point to tell at least one person each of the next few days how God has changed your life, and why you take time each week to worship Him.

Complete these three simple exercises, and see how your preparation affects your worship on Sunday.