



Supper-time Conversations

Through the Gospel of St John

by

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"Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. "Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." John 12:28-32

— GJ9 —



CHRIST-CONFESSING
METHODIST CHURCH

AGAINST THIS CHRIST-DENYING WORLD

John 12:12-13 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" The King of Israel!"

There was a very large crowd of people from all over Palestine following Jesus. The Pharisees, Sadducees and the leaders of the Temple were therefore very concerned about what might happen to their cosy and comfortable lives. John 12:19: "The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look the world has gone after Him!"

Read John 11:47 The great importance and uniqueness of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, however, is not found in the crowds that were coming to Him in increasing numbers, but its importance in that all four Gospels record this incident. The uniqueness of the event was not in the transient acclaim and praise of those who a few days later repeatedly cried out "crucify Him!" It is not found in the uncharacteristic actions of Christ on this occasion.

Read Matthew 12:18-21. Verse 19: He will not quarrel nor cry out. Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. Also Matthew 16:20; Mark 5:43, 9:9 John 6:15 and 7:4. It is also not to be found in the display of Christ's tremendous power over people by His immense wisdom and the authority in which He made plain and simple the depth and purity of divine truth.

Pray: Lord help me to turn my eyes towards You until all the things of this world fade away. Amen.

John 12:14-16 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him."

Read: Luke 19:29-35 and note: "when He came near to . . . Bethany, . . . He sent two of His disciples, saying, "you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. . . . So those who were sent . . . found it just as He has said . . ."

The deity of Christ was displayed by His omniscience in giving to His disciples the precise spot where the donkey would be. Genesis 49:10-11 is about Jacob blessing his son Judah who is the founder of that tribe. David and Jesus were born into that tribe. Verse 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, until Shiloh comes (Means: until it comes to the one to whom it belongs) Binding this donkey to the vine, and is donkey's colt to the choice vine, is prophetically and symbolically indicative of the suffering and triumph of Christ in ushering in the Kingdom of God. In doing so He takes the sceptre of His sovereignty Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation. Lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Pray: You O Christ are my Lord, my Saviour and my King. Hear this Satan and leave me! I belong to Christ and I am His property! Amen.

John 12:17-19 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!"

Verse 17 clarifies the fact that Christ did not organize a crowd or mob in order to threaten the Roman authorities. The crowd who heard from the witnesses of Lazarus raised from the dead where mainly Galileans coming to Jerusalem for the Passover. These Galileans were not impressed by the schemes of the Pharisees, Sadducees and rulers of the Temple. John 11:57 refers to the High Priest ordering every Jew to report to them any sighting of Jesus. These Galileans had witnessed Christ's mighty ministry in Galilee. They even wanted to take Him by force and make Him King. John 6:15 The lowliness of Christ's entry into Jerusalem served two purposes. One it was not an undignified Jesus sneaking into Jerusalem like a coward afraid of the High Priest.

Read Luke 22:52-53. Jesus was also not defiant of those in authority of the Temple of Rome. He did not enter Jerusalem in a golden chariot drawn by sturdy stallions, the donkey was borrowed. No pricey garlands of beauty or pomp adorned His entry. Those who watched would know that His Kingdom was not of this world. Romans 12:2.

Read Revelation 19:11-21. When our Lord returns it will be very different.

Pray: Glory, honour and praise be to You. Your love, grace and patience has gently worked in me. Amen.

John 12:20-22 Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the Feast. Then they came to Philip who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus. Jesus ministered and preached the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5 - 7) on the west side of the lake of Galilee. On the opposite side of the sea was Decapolis a City Jesus visited comprising of then Greek towns.

Read Mark 5:1-20 and note: "Then they began to plead with Jesus to depart from their region . . ., he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marvelled." These Greeks who were wanting to see Jesus were the fruit of that ministry. How blessed this must have been for our Lord. The request of these Greeks was so different now. Previously they begged Him to leave them. That is when they feared that He would ruin their economy. The loss of two thousand pigs was indeed a serious threat. Those pigs were of greater value than the demon-possessed man being healed. Something like the use of the costly spikenard. Where is their perspective? A demon-possessed man and Lazarus changed them.

Pray: Lord, You have changed my perspectives. I must see Jesus or life is vain. Please hear me. Amen.

John 12:23-26 But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him, My Father will honour." These Greeks witnessed or heard about the total transformation of the demonic who lived among the tombs. Mark 5:6-7 Christ had told the demonic man that he could not join His party of disciples. He instructed him, however, to go and tell his own people what wonderful things God was doing. Those he converted became Jewish proselytes or else they would not have been allowed to celebrate the Passover. The response of Jesus to their request to see Him is open to speculation. In Matthew 10:5-6 and Christ's dealing with the Canaanite woman. Matthew 15:21-28 the hour had not yet come for the Saviour to become the Saviour of the world. (Hag 2:7) Several times and in different words Jesus reiterated what He said in John 2:44. Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." Jesus would not even have His disciples make known that He was the Christ (Matthew 16:20). Now He says the hour has come!

Pray: Lord Jesus the hour of Your glorification was the hour of Your humiliation and suffering. Thank You for doing Your Father's will that I may do His. Amen.

John 12:27-29 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." Therefor the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

These Greeks saw in Jesus one who could ensure for them a place in heaven. A chat with Him would be sufficient. Jesus was not God's public relations man. His only purpose was to do His Father's will. This was to accomplish for them and all humanity infinitely more than they expected. The hour had now come for Him to do this work. The Father's Glory was His concern. The full penalty for every sin, its guilt and power would be settled. A pure, holy fellowship with God would be restored. They would be loving God with all their hearts, souls, minds and strength. They would love one another including their enemies with this same love. Their human nature would become divine. For this to become reality Jesus Christ became acutely aware of what He was about to undergo. John Newman in his hymn, Praise to the holiest in the height, refers to the double agony that Jesus underwent. In the garden and on the cross. There was, however, a triple agony. The troubled soul of Jesus was the third. Our Lord's holy soul was moved to its very depths by the horror of that coming hour . . . His anguish was extreme."

Pray: O generous love that He, who smote for man, in man the foe. The double agony in man for man should undergo. Amen.

John 12:30-33 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die. The Father's response to the request of His Son was instant. The Father had glorified His name first in the tomb of Lazarus, then by the voice from heaven. This voice Jesus said was for the benefit of those who knew about Lazarus. They would know that it was authenticated from above. Romans 6:4 Therefor we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Thirdly the Father is going to glorify His name again in the resurrection of His Son. The Lord Jesus did not ask the Father to glorify the Son but for the Father to glorify His own name. The Father does not seek self-glorification but is glorified in what He is doing in the complete and willing obedience of His Son and now through the work of Christ in our lives. This was for their benefit. Today, with all our technology in electronics and science, sceptics could easily cast doubt on all that Jesus did. Even on the resurrection of Lazarus.

Read Galatians 4:4. The signs Jesus did were admitted to be true even by His enemies but they still did not believe. The voice from heaven did not overcome their stubborn refusal to be persuaded. Satan was cast out of heaven.

Read Luke 19:1-12 and note verse 18 and Revelation 11:7-12. Christ's death on the cross was in order to draw you to Himself out of this condemned and lost world.

Pray: Dear Lord, please do Your work in me and save me out of this condemned world. Amen.