# John 12-19 Six days of Jesus

# \*John

## \*1:1-18 Tells us what John believed about Jesus

### A masterful summary of John’s theology

### The rest of the book is the evidence for why John has come to these beliefs

## \*1:19-19:42 mentions 3 Passovers, and here we have the third

### \*2:23, 6:4 & 12:1

#### Passover is an annual feast roughly when we celebrate Easter (that’s how it was fixed, but calendars have changed over the years and we are often not in sync now)

### \*Jesus has been through a year of being popular as the people’s prophet (2:23-6:3)

#### Doing good, showing miraculous signs, being inclusive

### \*He’s had another year of growing opposition when He was diverting from the religious authorities’ expectations (6:4-11:57)

#### He wasn’t doing what they wanted, but was doing what God wanted and that often showed them up

##### That culminated in the raising of Lazarus and the uncovering of the real motives of the religious leaders

###### They liked their power under the Romans and were prepared to do anything to keep it

### And Jesus kept upping the ante:

#### Making it a more and more black and white issue so that people could not just sit on the fence when it came to deciding if He was from God

## \*12:1-19:42 covers the last few days of Jesus’ natural life

### By the end the week He would be crucified and put in a tomb and, John tells us, Jesus knew it was coming

## If you knew you would be dead by next Sunday what would you do and say this week?

### People react in different ways to terminal illness

#### My father-in-law, a lovely man in every way, turned his back on it and went into denial and became reclusive

### When my Dad was diagnosed with cancer and given 6 months to live he became very focussed

#### He did a lot to make sure my mum could cope

##### He wrote down financial details and insurances

##### He sorted out the bank accounts

##### He taught her how to wire a plug and change a light bulb and use his drill

##### He organised his tool shed so everything was labelled

##### He made up a small tool kit for her

#### He sorted out his spiritual life

##### For years he had been afraid of dying and going to hell

###### He came to me and asked how he could become a Christian

#### He organised his funeral

##### He asked me to do that and chose things he would like

#### When people visited him he made sure he wasn’t morbid or miserable

##### And when he met others he would let them tell him about their aches and pains

###### My mum tells the story of a visit to the hospital with my dad when an old friend came up and started telling him about some problem he had with his leg and how terrible the NHS was and awful it made him feel then finally asking my dad how he was

‘I’m fine’ he said

#### He asked people to make sure his wife was OK after the funeral

##### That she got out again

## \*These chapters contain Jesus’ most pressing actions and teachings as He faced His exodus (death)

### When you know you’ve got a deadline you become very focussed

# The focussed Jesus (12:1-19:42)

## Prepare well

### Anointed in Bethany (12:1-11)

## Go with the flow, but stick to mission

### Triumphal entry (12:12-19)

## Keep your word

### Accurate prophecy to prove reliability (12:20-36; 13:18-38)

## Do the low jobs

### Washing of the disciples’ feet (13:1-17)

## Prepare your people for change

### Preparing His disciples for His death (14:1-14;

## Share your vision of the future

### The coming and work of the Holy Spirit (14:15-31; 16:5-16)

## Map the changes (internally)

### The new relationship He will have with them (15:1-17)

## Map the effects (externally)

### The new role the disciples will have in the world (15:18-27)

## Acknowledge the emotional journey

### of the disciples (16:17-33)

## Communicate with the boss

### The importance of prayer (17)

## Keep your eye on the ball with integrity (with friends)

### His witness when betrayed and denied (18:1-18, 25-27)

## Keep your eye on the ball with integrity (with opponents)

### His witness during His trials (18:19-24, 28-40; 19:1-16)

## Keep your eye on the ball with integrity (even when it goes pear shaped)

### The witness as He died (19:16-42)

# Prepare well

## When Jesus came to the last week of His life He stopped to draw breath

### He was only 2 miles – less than an hour’s walk – from Jerusalem but He stayed in Bethany with friends

### Friends gathered, a celebration of the past was made, an acknowledgement of something brewing was in the air

## What would Jesus do then?

### He lets Mary do something for Him

#### You’d think He would be too busy with His own concerns and imparting His last bits of wisdom but He lets her in and lets her do something for him

## Mary’s model:

### A humble spirit

#### Mary mentioned 3 times – all at Jesus’ feet

##### Learning from Him (Lk 12:50)

##### Depending on Him (Jn 11:32)

##### Anointing Him in devotion (12:3)

### A perceptive heart

#### She seems to know that Jesus has a heavy mission and wants to do something for Him

##### She probably doesn’t know what is going to happen, but she picks up the vibes

### An extravagant act

#### A year’s wages - £25,000???

### A timely act

#### It was meant to be…

##### But it was sharply criticised

###### It’s easy to criticise others in the church for doing what we think as the wrong thing

They’re too devoted to the church

They could use their money better by giving it to a cause rather than spending it on church décor

They’re giving too much time to the church – they shouldn’t neglect their family

# Jesus allowed people to do their bit

## Even as He focussed on His part of God’s mission He didn’t submit to the urge to control everyone else

### Or to ignore what they were doing

#### This is the magnanimous heart that not only acknowledges others but sees things beyond their own little bubble

### It says ‘I know I have an important job, but so do you’, ‘I know I am called to do this, but you are called to do that and I will encourage you and bless you for doing it’

#### That’s a conversation that can go on at many different levels in the church

##### Between deacons and elders, between husbands and wives, between paid people and volunteers