

John Lesson 13 Articles

The resurrection of Lazarus, like the rest of Christ's life and ministry, forced people to a decision about Him. Many responded in faith; others were indifferent; and some were murderously hostile. As Jesus' final Passover drew near, it would not be long before those who were indifferent and those who were hostile would unite to crucify the Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8).¹

He Witnessed to Others (11:45) In John 11:45 and 12:9–11 and 17, we see that Lazarus caused quite a stir in the area! People saw him and believed in Christ! In fact, he was a walking miracle, just as every Christian ought to be (Rom. 6:4). The great crowd that gathered on Palm Sunday came not only because of Jesus, but also because of Lazarus. In 12:11 we are told that Lazarus was causing people to trust Christ, but this kind of witness is the privilege and duty of every Christian.²

Apart from the Prologue, there is scarcely a more encompassing chapter than chap. 12, for it serves a unique role in linking the two major sections of this Gospel together, as will be explained below. Chapter 11 brought the public ministry to a climax with the strategic raising of Lazarus and the crucial *ex cathedra* statement of the high priest concerning the necessary death of Jesus. Chapter 12, with the anointing of Jesus and the entry into Jerusalem, prepares the reader for the final cycle—the Farewell Cycle directed to the disciples of Jesus—and for the Death and Resurrection stories. Thus the chapter serves as an Introduction to the second major section of the Gospel. It sets a serious tone with the anointing scene but also offers a foretaste of the fact that the dying one is also the King of Israel, as is proclaimed by the crowd at the entry into Jerusalem (12:13).³

¹ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). *John 1–11* (p. 486). Chicago: Moody Press.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 242). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

³ Borchert, G. L. (2002). *John 12–21* (Vol. 25B, pp. 28–29). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.