
would heal them.”⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

John 12:44 Then Jesus cried out, “Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me.”⁴⁵ The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.⁴⁶ I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

A Larger Story parable: the lesson of the seed

John 12:23 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.²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:47 “If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.”⁴⁸ There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.⁴⁹ For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

“Either we will meet Jesus as Savior now in this life or we will meet Jesus as Judge after this life.”

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Finding Your Place in the Larger Story

The Larger Story—part 3

John 12; April 18, 2021

The lesson of the:

- Glass swan:
- Dragonfly:

Locked on the Larger Story

John 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.² Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.³ 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.

Lost in his smaller story

John 12:4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.”⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Psalm 36:2 For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his own sin.

John 12:7 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.

⁸ You will always have the poor among you, ^p but you will not always have me.”

“Fairweather fans” of the Larger Story

John 12:12 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!” ^u “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

John 12:14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.”

John 12:16 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 these things had been done to him.

John 12:17 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. ¹⁸ Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.

Seekers of the Larger Story: gentile visitors

John 12:20 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.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

John 12:23 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.

John 12:27 “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’?”

John 12:27b No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

John 12:28b Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

John 12:34 The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

Deniers of the Larger Story: unbelievers

John 12:37 Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they **still would not** believe in him. ³⁸ 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?”

John 12:39 For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: ⁴⁰ “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I