



# SPORTS IN FOCUS

*The King Enters Jerusalem*

John 11:55-12:50

## READY

- In what way has this study of John helped you see Jesus with fresh eyes? What new things about Him have you learned?
- Who is the most enthusiastic person on your team? What impact does this have on your team?

## SET

### Context of John 11:55-12:50

This section of John's Gospel contrasts the different reactions of love and hate, belief and rejection of Christ, leading up to the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. The Sanhedrin and other Jewish leaders wanted Jesus dead but did not want him killed during the Passover time because they feared His popularity with the people. Jesus entered the city on His own time in order that it might happen exactly on the Passover day when the lambs were being sacrificed. In God's perfect timing, Jesus Christ presented Himself to die.

### Keys to Text

*Passover Feast:* The Passover was a special feast day in Israel's religious calendar and was linked to what took place in the Exodus (Exod. 12-13). It became entrenched in Israel's tradition and has always marked the day of redemption from Egypt. Passover began with the slaying of the Passover lamb, which had to be a lamb without blemish.

## GO

### Read John 11:55-12:50

1. As the Passover began, what were the Jewish leaders busy doing?
2. Compare the scenes of Jesus' private life and public life in this passage. What differences or similarities do you find in how Jesus behaves? How he treats people?
3. At the supper described in the first part of chapter 12, how did Mary's attitudes and behavior contrast with Judas?
4. Why was it significant for Christ to enter Jerusalem at Passover time?
5. Mary demonstrated her love and devotion in a costly, sacrificial way. How can you demonstrate your love for Christ this week?
6. Many religious leaders cared more about their circumstances and position than about the truth about Jesus (12:42-43). What are some specific ways you've seen that modern-day believers "love the praise of men more than the praise of God"?
7. Jesus said He came as a "light." What has the light illuminated in your life that needs changing?

## SPORTS IN FOCUS *ENTHUSIASM*

Enthusiasm was demonstrated by Mary's act of unmeasured love. By pouring the expensive perfume on Jesus, she demonstrated her enthusiasm and adoration for Him. She did not selfishly seek a visible and tangible result from her generosity but without hesitation offered her most expensive earthly possession to the Lord in an act of adoring worship. Enthusiasm can be defined as lively, absorbing interest in each task.

Discuss each of these three statements and how each could impact your team:

- I will put my whole heart into what I do.
- I will treat every role on the team as important.
- I will be an energy-giver, not an energy-drainer.