

The Hour has come!

Introduction

John 11vs55-12vs50 brings the first major section of the Gospel to end. The setting is Judea, it is the Passover and ‘the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified’ has now come (John 12vs23). Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, enters the scene and is openly critical of Jesus’ actions and priorities. The authorities remain hostile, and the crowds, though they flock to see Jesus and are outspoken in their praise, prove fickle in their response to Jesus’ words. Strikingly, it is the request of some Greeks, which prompts Jesus to proclaim the arrival of ‘His hour’ and to explain the meaning of His impending death. Once again we are reminded that though He came to that which was His own, His own did not receive Him. But we are also reminded that to all who received Him and believed in His Name, He gave the right to be children of God.

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the text means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 11vs55- 12vs50. Answer the following questions:

1. How did Judas respond to Mary’s actions? Why? (John 12vs1-6)
(Note: This anointing described in John 12 is in all likelihood the same event as that described in Mark 14 & Matthew 26, but different from that described in Luke 7)
2. How does Jesus interpret her actions? (John 12vs7-8)
3. How do the chief priests and Pharisees react to Jesus’ growing popularity? (John 12vs9-11,vs19)

