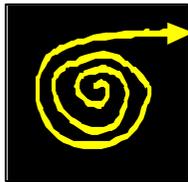


The Gospel

of John

Parting

Gifts



Central Productions

12 Studies on Chapter 10v22- Chapter 21
By D Thurston

Prayer Points

John 10v22 — John 21

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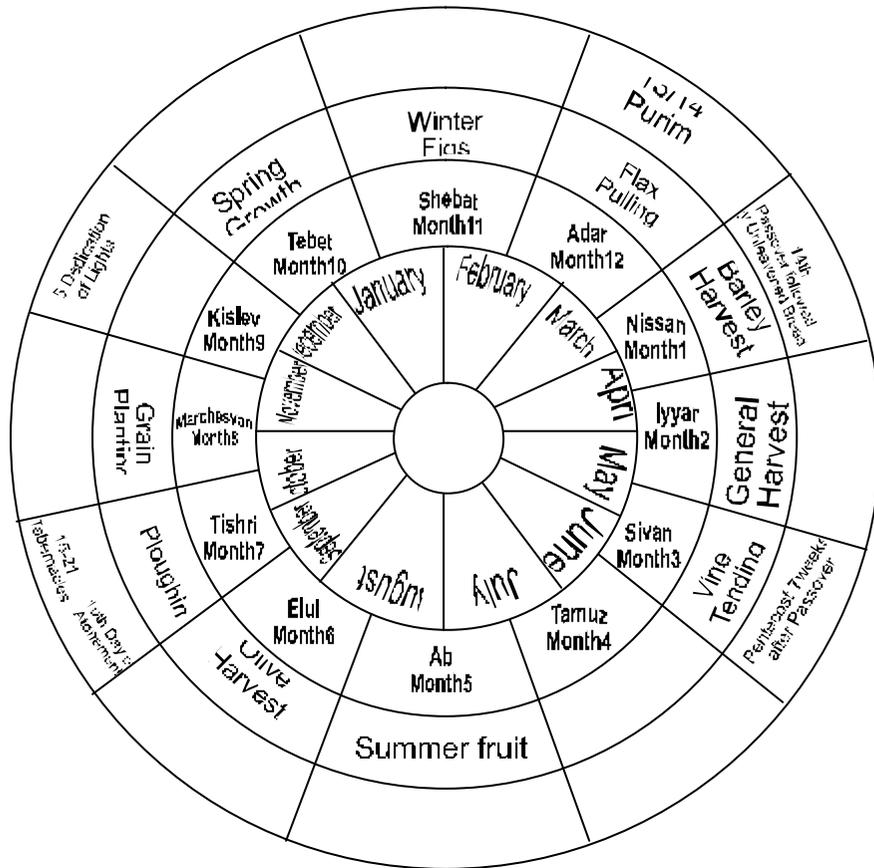
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John Calendar

Prayer Points



Prayer Points

Study 1. A Strange Dedication

John 10v22-42

Making Sense of History

Antiochus VI Epiphanies was a ruler between a rock and a hard place. The rock was the growing power and interference of Rome in the west and the hard place was the Parthian Empire in the East. Added to all of this was the threat of Egypt in the south. What Antiochus didn't need was trouble at home. Trouble was what he got. He became necessarily embroiled in the internal politicking of the leaders in Jerusalem. Thinking that he would strengthen his empire he granted to Jerusalem the status of 'polis' or 'City State' called Judean Antioch. In effect this had huge social ramifications – people were disposed of power and property. After settling a crisis in Egypt Antiochus returned via Jerusalem and crushed the revolt against the High Priest he had appointed. Soon after he left Jerusalem again revolted and she was subsequently degraded to a 'Garrison City'. Syrian soldiers were garrisoned in Jerusalem and the first murmurs about pagan god were heard which climaxed in the winter of 167 BC. Then Antiochus published an edict that would plunge the whole of Judea into revolt: Sabbath observance and circumcision were prohibited, as were the Jewish Scriptures. The Temple was rededicated to Zeus Olympius and pagan sacrifices (pigs) replaced the Jewish ones. This led in 166 BC to the revolt under the leadership of Judas Maccabeus who took Jerusalem in 164 BC and on the 25th of December purified and rededicated the Temple to YHWH. The Feast of Dedication was celebrated for eight days.

Prayer Points

1. Read the passage through and make notes.
2. How does the statement it was winter set a tone for what comes after?
3. Look up a bible atlas and find where Solomon's porch is.
4. At first sight it seems that the Jews are eager to know if Jesus is the Christ. How does his answer demonstrate that belief is more than evidence? What evidence does Jesus claim they already have at their disposal?
5. From your recollection of the miracles, what do they testify about Jesus and the sort of 'Christ' he is?
6. What did their unbelief demonstrate about themselves in relation to Jesus?

Prayer Points

7. In view of v27-29, what implications does unbelief have for those who do not believe?
8. Jesus' statement that, "I and the Father are one" was interpreted by his hearers as what?
9. How does Jesus respond to their antagonism?
10. Strangely enough, Jesus no longer has them in suspense and he has told them 'plainly', but what is their response?
11. Read v34-37 what is Jesus' argument?
12. Is Jesus putting his sonship on a par with the Jews?
13. What has the Father done in relation to the Son of God?
14. What witnesses does Jesus call to his defence v37-38?

15. What was it about Jesus reply to them that further incited them to fury?

16. Jesus quits the city and in the area back across the Jordan finds a different response. What is it and why?

17. What echoes of John 1v1-18 is there in this passage?

18. This was the feast of the dedication of the Temple. We know already that the Temple assumed a proxy status. Read John 2v12-22. Who is the real temple?

19. The Jews were celebrating the rededication of the Temple - the place where God dwelt and where man could dwell with him. They might have honoured the shadow but what is ironic about the way they are treating the real thing?

5. Why do you think Peter was hurt v17?

6. Do we need to be hurt to be healed some times?

7. What is Jesus calling Peter to do?

8. What does Jesus then tell Peter v18-19?

9. What does Jesus call Peter to do v19?

10. What reason do you think v20-23 was included?

11. What does v25 tell us about John's gospel?

John 21

John relates to us the third and final appearance of the Lord in John's gospel.

Peter takes the lead and suggests that their time could be spent going back to fishing for the moment. The others agree. They catch nothing despite a hard night's work. An apparent stranger while walking along the beach calls out asking if they have caught anything. "Nothing", is their answer. The stranger directs them to try the other side of the boat and they get a huge haul, and they know it is Jesus.

1. How does Peter respond to the news that the person directing the fishing is Jesus?
2. How many fish did they catch? Is this important? What could it mean?
3. How many times is Peter asked if he loves Jesus?
4. How many times did he deny him?

John 11

1. Find Bethany on a map in a bible atlas.
2. Why would John mention something here, which is going to happen later v2?
3. John's introduction of Martha and Mary almost assumes we know them. How might this be so?
4. What did Martha and Mary expect would happen once the message had been sent?
5. How is Lazarus described v3?
6. How does Jesus' response to the news of Lazarus' sickness parallel his answer to the disciples' question in 9v2?
7. How does v5 work in the context?
8. How might it work in our life?

9. How does Jesus' answer to his disciples' concern make sense?
10. Jesus is probably in the region Perea, (see 10v40.) but tarries two days more before heading back to Judea. Jesus' heading back to Judea raises concerns about his safety, which he dismisses. What reason does Jesus give for returning?
11. The disciples response is a familiar pattern in John, describe it.
12. Verses 17-19 paint the scene very well – put it in your own words.
13. In the interaction between Jesus and Martha v21-27 do you think she displays insight into who Jesus is, and what he is on about? How?
14. When did Martha believe Jesus would act?

18. Jesus came as he had one week later, he speaks peace and offers his body for investigation. What is Thomas' response?
19. How significant is Thomas' choice of words in a Jewish setting v28?
20. We cannot have like Thomas the blessing of belief because of sight. What blessing can we have?
21. Some people say that v31 is the purpose statement of the book of John. How does this make sense?

12. What task and what message does Jesus give to Mary? What does it mean v17?

13. At the end of this eventful day v19 the disciples are hiding behind closed doors – they knew the death of the leader frequently led to the death of the followers. How does Jesus transform their fear to joy?

14. Chapter 20 is a climax in many ways and full of climaxes, v21-22 is one such climax. What does it mean?

15. Thomas is understandably sceptical. How does he respond to the news that the disciples have seen the Lord?

16. What did Thomas require before he would believe?

17. What did Jesus show the other disciples v20?

15. What is Jesus saying about his coming and the presence of the future?

16. Do you think she really understood?

17. What is Jesus' response to Mary's questioning plea?

18. Do you think Jesus understood what he was about to do?

19. So why did Jesus weep?

20. How limited did the crowd think Jesus was v37?

21. Read v38-44 aloud three times and then close your eyes and imagine it. Write down how it impacts you. How do we know Lazarus was really dead?

22. How is the raising of Lazarus a climax of the plot of John so far?

23. What does this sign say about who Jesus is?
24. What were the differing responses to the sign?
25. What was the Sanhedrin's concern?
26. What did Ciaphas mean by his prophecy and how did it really work out contrary to his political aims?
27. Read v54-57, how does it set the scene for what will follow?

For Group Discussion

How do we handle things when God seems tardy in responding?

As Peter and John return to tell the others Mary is left behind. This time as she looks in the tomb is not empty - there are two angels one at the head and one at the foot of where the body had been.

7. What does their question to her imply v13?
8. Mary's grief at the apparent theft of her master's body blinds her from seeing what had happened, even though she was looking straight at Jesus. How do Jesus' questions go to the heart of the matter?
9. How can we act like Mary at times?
10. How did Jesus make himself known?
11. What reason does Jesus give for not wanting Mary to hold him? What does it mean?

John 20

In chapter 20 we see the events of the resurrection primarily through the eyes of Mary Magdalene. We are already sympathetic to her (19v25) because of her faithfulness to Jesus.

1. Try and imagine yourself in her shoes in v1 what progression of thoughts and feeling would you have on coming to an empty tomb?
2. What did Mary assume had happened v2?
3. What did Simon and John (the disciple Jesus loved) do immediately?
4. What did they see?
5. What was the response of the other disciple v8?
6. How does v9 qualify the belief of the other disciple?

John 12

1. What sort of mood does the time signature, "six days before the Passover" in v1 create?
2. Read Luke 10v38-42. Comment on how Luke portrays the sisters Martha and Mary, and how John portrays them.
3. Sometimes we think the past is so different that we fail to recognise that which is truly out of the ordinary. Imagine someone today doing a similar thing as Mary v3 at a formal dinner party. What do you think prompted Mary's actions?
4. In v3 the extravagance in action and money is emphasised. How?
5. Do you think we are comfortable with such extravagance? Why?

6. There was someone else who was uncomfortable with this extravagance – Judas. How else did he believe the money could be used?

7. We are told of Judas' motive behind this suggestion. Compare and contrast Mary and Judas. How does Jesus deal with Judas' objection?

8. How is the note of impending doom sounded in Jesus' retort?

9. Why is Lazarus in one sense a star disciple v10?

The use of palm branches was often associated with victory, not only in the Jewish world but also in the Gentile. When Judas Maccabeus after his victory restored the Temple from its desecration the people waved palm branches. In the Greek and Roman athletic competitions palm boughs were given to the victors. The use of a donkey is also highly symbolic. In Israel, horses were associated with power and pride (2 Samuel 15, 1 Kings 10v26). The donkey was a symbol of humility.

10. At this point Jesus' actions are speaking. What do you think they are saying?

10. In v36 and 37 why does John quote Psalm 34v20 and Zechariah 12v10?

11. We have two ambiguous characters making a very unambiguous declaration of loyalty to Jesus. Who are they and what do they declare?

5. What is John saying is happening to Jesus by referring us to Psalm 22?
6. How is saying I am thirsty fulfil Scripture? (Ps 69)
7. Read the whole of Psalm 69. Jesus is using one verse to indicate the totality of the theology of the Psalm as interpretive of his act. So what is it saying?
8. What do the words 'It is finished' mean?
9. What is the significance of water and blood from the side of Jesus?
- 10.
11. The concern of the Pharisees in v19 seems to come to reality in v20. How?
12. All through John's gospel we have heard about 'the hour' (John 2v4; 4v21, 23; 7v30; 8v20 look them up) what is different in v23 when compared to the previous references?
13. The appearance of the Greeks seeking Jesus is a trigger that the next stage of Jesus' mission is to take place. Read v24. There appears at first sight a contradiction. How is it a similar paradox to the Triumphal entry?
14. In v31-33 how does Jesus interpret his death? How might the coming of the Greeks make sense in the light of v31-33?
15. The Jews are rejecting Jesus, the Greeks are seeking him out. Read Isaiah 52v13-53 and look for similar themes and list them.

John 13v1-30

18. What is ironic about Pilate's offer v39 and the 'Jews' response v40?

19. How is the brutal treatment metered out to Jesus 'appropriate' 19v1-5?

20. How did Pilate assess Jesus innocence or otherwise v6?

21. What is ironic about this man of power called Pilate v6-11?

Probably by this time Sejanus had been killed in his attempt to rule Rome so any appointee of his would be under a cloud of suspicion. The accusation in v12 is really a thinly veiled threat.

22. What is significant about the time signature of v14?

23. The Passover was a time when Israel remembered her release from bondage under Pharaoh and the Egyptians. What is ironic about their attitude to Caesar in v16?

1. How does v1 drive forward our anticipation of a climax?

2. How does the statement of Jesus' in v 1 regarding showing "the full extent of his love" shape our understanding of what is to follow?

3. What does v2 do in alerting us to the forces involved in the action?

4. What does v3 tell us about Jesus' status?

The roads of Palestine were hot and dusty. People mainly travelled by foot, their feet protected by sandals. By the time they had travelled any distance in whatever weather their feet needed washing. This was especially the case before a dinner. Guests would recline around a low table with their feet away from the table so clean fresh feet

were a bit of a must. The job of foot washing was so lowly that slaves were the ones who normally did the job. Rabbinic sources state that washing feet was considered too humiliating for Jewish disciples to be asked to do. The Last Supper was a secret affair only for Jesus and his chosen few. The evening meal was being served and still no one had got up to do the lowly task. The scene is set for Jesus' act of humble love. Notice the slow and deliberate way Jesus actions are detailed. Time slows so we can dwell on the significance of what Jesus is doing. It is more than unusual. It's stunning!

5. Peter senses the apparent inappropriateness of Jesus action. The others might be shocked into silence but not Peter. What does Peter learn about the foot washing in v8, 10?

6. Jesus must have washed Judas' feet – what do you think about that?

7. Actions speak louder than words but sometimes we need the words to understand the actions. Jesus explains the significance of his appalling condescension. What were the disciples to learn?

12. What is Jesus' defence before Annas v19-24?

13. After reading v25-27 how do you feel toward Peter? Why?

14. How do you read v28? Is it Ironic?

The right hand man of Tiberius Caesar, Sejanus, appointed Pilate to Judea. Sejanus was an anti-Semite and may well have appointed Pilate because he shared the same attitude. There was no love lost between Pilate and the Jews.

15. Read 18v28-19v16. How does this antipathy show itself?

16. What was the nature of the charge that the Jews brought against Jesus v33?

17. In answering Pilate, Jesus talks about the nature of his kingship and his kingdom v35 -37. What are they?

7. What is Jesus' intention in v8, how does it parallel what he is about to do?

8. How does Jesus respond to Peter's attempt to save him v11?

9. How does v 12-14 function in the story at this point?

10. How would you have felt in Peter's shoes v15-18?

John writes the trial scene as a double-decker sandwich; The Arrest v12; Jesus to Annas v13-18; Peter in the outer court v19-27; Jesus Before Pilate v28-40;

11. As you read the story what is its effect on you, the reader?

8. What symbolic relationship, if any, is there to the cross in Jesus washing their feet v1?

It is an easy thing to retain the symbol and yet deny the substance of the meaning. Church will not grow in service by instituting a time of foot washing. It will grow as we serve one another in things that are lowly, things that we would normally avoid.

9. Can you think of anything that fits that category?

Jesus instruction in v1-17 goes beyond the present concerns of v18-38. Jesus now turns his mind to the immediate future – to betrayal and denial.

10. Jesus has chosen one amongst his number that would betray him. What reason does Jesus give as to why he is telling them about his betrayal now v19?

11. How did Jesus feel about this, despite knowing what would happen in advance v21?

John 13v31 - 14

21. What does Jesus ask in order that the world will know that the Father sent him v22,23?

22. What does 'complete unity' mean in the light of denominations?

23. What does our Lord want for us v24?

24. Compare v25-26 to the Great Commission in Matt. 28?

With the departure of Judas, Jesus is free to further instruct his disciples as to what is about to happen and comfort them.

1. What is Jesus' response to the beginning of the events that will lead to his death v31-32?
2. Jesus is at pains to prepare the disciples for what is about to happen. In the turmoil of betrayal and denial what command does Jesus give his disciples?
3. Why will this love identify Jesus' followers? Do you think it is easy to 'pick the Christian' today?
4. Peter wants to know where Jesus is going and even when, given the assurance that he will indeed follow later. But this is not enough for Peter. He claims that he will lay down his life for Jesus. What must Jesus do for Peter?

5. How is this similar to the foot washing incident with Peter?

Contrary to Peter's protests and self-confidence, Jesus answers with his searching question of Peter by telling Peter he will become the denier v38.

6. How does this make you feel about Peter? Why?

Jesus' aim in chapter 14 and following is to assure the disciples of the unimaginable - Jesus' departure is for their benefit in many ways. This must have been inconceivable to the disciples but these next few chapters are full of wonderful assurances that spill over to us.

7. The opening verses are full of assurance. What are they to do? Why?

8. What has Jesus' going away have to do with the disciples and what can they be assured of?

9. In v4, Jesus assures them that they are not completely in the dark. What is it that they know?

13. What two reasons does Jesus give as to why he prays for the disciples v10-11?

14. How will God's name protect them v11?

15. What name did God give to Jesus v12?

16. How are the disciples different from the world 13-19?

17. What does sanctify mean v17?

Jesus prays for Us v20-26

18. What is surprising about v20?

19. What does Jesus pray for us v21?

20. How does he describe our unity?

6. How does Jesus' definition of eternal life make sense in the context of John's Gospel so far?

7. What is the work that the Father has given Jesus?

8. How will the Father glorify Jesus in his presence?

Jesus prays for the Disciples v6-19

9. How does v6 relate to v2?

10. Read v7-8 what is it the disciples know?

11. When did they know this?

12. Why doesn't Jesus pray for the world?

In response to this, three of Jesus' disciples ask a string of questions that Jesus uses to further explain his significance, purpose and relationship to them. Thomas, who wants street directions to where Jesus is going, dispute that they know the way. Jesus response is awesome.

10. What does he say?

11. Can you think of places through out John's gospel where the notion of Jesus being the way, truth and life to the Father is stated? List them.

12. Where is the 'place' where Jesus is going 13v1?

13. How does that make sense of v7?

14. Philip takes on the statement of seeing the Father with gusto. He wants the 'mystical' experience. "Show us the Father and that will be enough for us." What is stunning about Jesus' response? (cf 1v18)

15. How does Jesus explain his claim v10-11?

John 17

16. In v12-14 Jesus describes another advantage of his departure, what is it?

17. What is the overall focus of what Jesus has been doing? Cf 17v6

18. How has his ministry gone?

19. What would the disciples do? Cf 17v20

20. Read v15-31 Who is the Counsellor and what will he do?

21. When is Jesus' "coming" v18,19?

22. It is in response to a question from Judas (not Iscariot) that we have one of the great promises of the Bible in v22. Do we often envisage God living in us? Why?

23. What implications might that have if we did?

1. Where does this prayer occur in the flow of John's gospel?

2. What might its placement indicate?

Jesus Prays for Himself v1-5

3. How does v1 heighten the sense of approaching climax?

4. Who does Jesus give eternal life to in v2?

5. According to Jesus in v3 what is eternal life? What does it mean?

John 15-16v4

15. What is it that makes the disciples understand Jesus more clearly v31?

16. What is ironic about their belief v32?

17. How does this sombre note move us back into the story line of John v32?

18. What should the disciples expect in this life following Jesus v33?

19. What compensates them for this?

1. It may well have been that as Jesus walked to the Mount of Olives they passed vines that were beginning to fruit.

Look up the following verses. What do they refer to as being the vineyard or vine?

Isaiah 5v1-7

Isaiah 27v2-6

Jeremiah 2v21

Ezekiel 15

Ezekiel 19v10-14

Psalm 80v9-16.

2. Who replaces Israel in this parable?

3. What is the significance of this observation?

4. Who are the unproductive branches that don't bear fruit in John's gospel?

5. Why are they unproductive?
6. What must a branch do if it is to remain productive v4?
7. What is the 'much fruit' a branch will bear if it remains in Jesus?
8. What sort of relationship is being described by the vine and branches idea?
9. What can we expect if we don't remain in Jesus?
10. Verses 9-13 introduce us to the parallel and connected nature of Jesus' ministry and ours. Draw a diagram showing this.

world and Jesus and his disciples is thrown into stark contrast through their differing responses to the 'going' and 'coming' of Jesus v20. What are they?

going

coming

World

Disciples

12. What is significant about their grief and pain is that it will pass. What is their pain and sorrow like v21?

13. What is the best thing about the joy that will be the disciples' v22?

14. What will be significant about asking for something in Jesus' name? What will it be saying about who he is?

5. How will the Counsellor do this?
6. What was the 'more' that Jesus wanted to tell the disciples that they were at this time unable to bear?
7. Is the promise of v13 to the disciples or to us? How?
8. Compare and contrast the relationship between the Father and the Son, and the Son and the Spirit.
9. When is the 'little while' when the disciples will not see Jesus?
10. When is the 'little while' when the disciples will see Jesus?
11. When you put yourself in the disciples' place it is no wonder they were bewildered v17-18, what was about to happen was beyond their wildest dreams or darkest nightmares. The relationship between Jesus and the

'Servant' and 'friend' are two words that in our context mean completely different things in Jesus' context. For us a servant is a largely free person who is employed by another to do work. A friend is an equal whom you choose to associate with. The word translated servant is the word for slave. A slave had no rights and was the property of his or her master who had the power of life and death over the slave. A friend was a clearly defined relationship of mutual obligation. It was no 'buddy system' it was a social contract.

11. Read verses 14-17 in the light of this. Does it change anything for you?

12. Given that the mission of the disciples is dependent upon and yet parallel to that of Jesus' how does v18-21 make perfect sense?

13. Who is the 'world' Jesus keeps referring to in v18 ff?

14. Why is the world guilty of sin v22-24?

15. With the coming of the Spirit the disciples will be expected to do something. What is it?

16. How does the answer to the previous question help us understand the idea of fruitfulness?

17. Read 16v1-4. Jesus did not put the hard sayings about the trouble his followers can have in fine print. How is the death of Jesus similar to what will be the experience of the disciples?

Study 7. I Can See Clearly Now

John 16v5-33

At the prospect of no longer having the Lord with them the disciples are filled with grief. They have not understood the significance of his going to the Father – it will turn out for their good.

1. What will not happen if Jesus does not 'depart'?

2. What events come under the "going away" of Jesus?

3. How would you describe the relationship between Jesus and the Counsellor v7?

4. What three things will the Counsellor convict the world of v8?
Define the three events.
 - i.

 - ii.

 - iii.