

**The Hour Has Come**  
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC  
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February 27, 2022

Text: John 12:23b-28

Purpose: Jesus stated that the one moment in history has come for Him to fulfill the will of His Father. Just as a grain of wheat must die so must Jesus.

Jesus announced in John 12:23 that “*The Hour has come.*” As Jesus approaches the day of His death, the drums of Satan are beating out the sounds of success. *Satan knew the hour had come.* It is his plan to eliminate the Son of God and be victorious over God. Throughout the generations, Satan has tried to derail God’s plan of salvation. Even at Jesus’ birth, Satan tried to have Jesus killed in Bethlehem. Over the past three years, several times, we read that Jesus simply slipped away when the crowds attempted to take Jesus by force and kill him. Now we find Satan is plotting with Judas and the High Council for the death of one man. God in His infinite wisdom, has a plan they cannot comprehend. It is the plan of God to provide eternal Salvation for all that believe in Jesus. What Satan has planned as the crushing defeat of God, comes the brilliant plan of salvation.



Satan on one hand has set in motion the Sanhedrin to have Jesus killed as a sacrifice for the nation. *The religious rulers knew that the hour had come.* This would quiet the threat of Roman domination and return the source of religious authority back into the hands of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Later, as the salvation drama unfolds, we will see that Satan entered into Judas to conspire to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus on the other hand was fully in command of the situation confronting Him. In the first part of chapter 12, we see that Jesus is back in the home of Lazarus, the man he raised from the dead just a few days ago. As he was reclining at the table, a woman named Mary came and poured a very costly perfume and anointed the feet of Jesus. This spice or perfume was probably saved for her own burial or a family member when they died. This “Alabaster Box,” as one song said, reserved for the burial ceremony, is now being poured out on Jesus. *Mary knew the hour had come.* We could spend our time here this morning exploring the three instances where Jesus was anointed with oil during his last week – but we will explore that another day.



The next scene we see in this chapter is the famous scene we all have seen portrayed time and time again. In the other gospels, we get a clearer picture of the crowd of people that had gathered in Jerusalem to welcome and greet Jesus as He entered the city. Jesus had come to claim the title of King and they

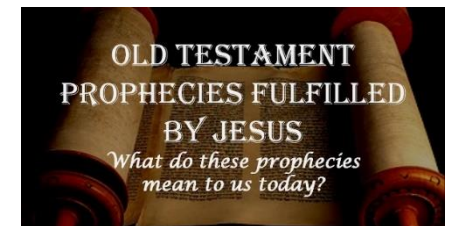


were there to witness it! Little did those there understand at the time, but Jesus was fulfilling the prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9 that Jesus was coming as a King on the back of a donkey. The donkey being a symbol of peace instead of a horse, which was the symbol of war or conquering. *The disciples may not have known then, but later they understood that Jesus' hour had finally come.* We could explore the significance of the donkey, the palm branches, the scripture fulfillment quotes from Psalm 118:26, or even the fact that the disciples were unaware of the events unfolding right before their eyes – but we will explore that another day.

What I want us to focus on this morning is the statement that has echoed throughout the Book of John. Up to this point, Jesus has insisted that “My hour has not come.” When Jesus entered into Jerusalem on the colt, the Pharisees insisted that Jesus tell those around Him to stop praising Him. Jesus responded that “If they did not praise me, then the rocks would cry out.” All of history and creation was groaning for the coming Messiah. If those there did not praise Him, then creation itself would have announced who Jesus was. *The hour has come.*

## I. The Hour of Fulfilled Prophecy

The prophecies concerning the timing of the Messiah's coming were being fulfilled right before their very eyes.



## **A. The Old Testament spoke of the family lineage of the Messiah.**

- Moses said that the Messiah would be the seed of a woman (Genesis 3:15)<sup>1</sup>
- He would be from the line and lineage of Abraham (Genesis 12:3),<sup>2</sup> and Isaac (Genesis 17:19)<sup>3</sup> and be a blessing to all the nations (Genesis 18:18).<sup>4</sup>
- Moses also said that the promised one would come out of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10) ,<sup>5</sup>
- like a star out of Jacob (Numbers 24:17-19).<sup>6</sup>
- He was to be as a prophet (Deut. 18:15,18),<sup>7</sup> but His throne would be established forever (2 Samuel 7: 12, 13, 16, 25).<sup>8</sup>

## **B. The Prophets spoke of the circumstances of the Messiahs birth.**

- Hosea spoke of the Christ child's flight to Egypt (Hosea 1:1).<sup>9</sup>
- Joel spoke of the promised Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32).<sup>10</sup>
- Amos prophesied about the sun darkening (Amos 8:9).<sup>11</sup>
- Micah predicted the birthplace of the Christ at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).<sup>12</sup>
- He even saw Israel restored (Micah 2:12).<sup>13</sup>
- Malachi spoke of the Messiah preceded by a forerunner (Malachi 3:1),<sup>14</sup> which you and I know as John the Baptist.

## **C. The Prophets of the Old Testament spoke of the Ministry of the Messiah.**

- He would preach repentance for the nations, (Isaiah 2:2-4)<sup>15</sup>

- The Messiah would be a light in the darkness (Isaiah 9: 1-20),<sup>16</sup>
- He would be full of wisdom and power (Isaiah 11:1-10),<sup>17</sup>
- He would be the son of the most High (Isaiah 33:22).<sup>18</sup>
- He would be born unto a virgin (Isaiah 7:14),<sup>19</sup>
- He would cause the deaf to hear and the blind to see (Isaiah 29:18).<sup>20</sup>
- In all that the Christ would do, it would be done as a meek servant (Isaiah 42:1-6).<sup>21</sup>

## **D. The Psalms also spoke of the manner in which the Messiah would die.**

- Psalm 22 says that he would be mocked and insulted, lots cast for his coat, and even His hands and feet would be pierced. (Psalm 22:1-31)<sup>22</sup>
- Even then not a bone was broken. (Exodus 12:46)<sup>23</sup>
- It was even prophesied that He was to be given vinegar and gall to drink. (Psalm 69:21)<sup>24</sup>
- Even during his most agonizing hour, Jesus committed His spirit into His Father's hands (Psalm 31:5).<sup>25</sup>
- Jesus of Nazareth was accused by false witnesses (Psalm 27:12),<sup>26</sup>
- betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9),<sup>27</sup>
- and even his friends stood afar off (Psalm 38:11).<sup>28</sup>
- He also said that His body would be pierced (Zechariah 12:10).<sup>29</sup>
- As His body was smitten, His followers would be scattered (Zechariah 13:1, 6, 7).<sup>30</sup>
- Zechariah also prophesied that the Christ would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver and then he would try to return it but it would be used to purchase a potter's field (Zechariah. 11: 12, 13).<sup>31</sup>

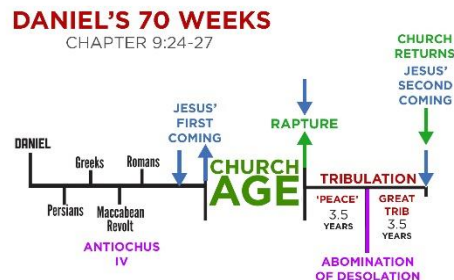
- Isaiah said that He would stand silent before his accusers (Isaiah 53:7),<sup>32</sup>
- would be scourged and spat upon (Isaiah 50:6),<sup>33</sup>
- and crucified with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).<sup>34</sup>
- He would make His grave with the rich (Isaiah 53:9),<sup>35</sup>
- yet would become the King of Kings (Isaiah 32:1-4).<sup>36</sup>

How the Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes – who knew the scriptures – missed all these prophecies is beyond understanding. Even today there are people that refuse to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Today in John’s scripture in chapter twelve (12:12-15), we see that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a colt fit for a King. Zechariah was the one that said that Christ would enter into Jerusalem on a colt (Zechariah 9:9).<sup>37</sup>

There is a prophecy concerning Israel from the book of Daniel. It is the discussion about the seventy weeks.

These prophecies relate to the Christ and His Hour that Jesus says has come.

Daniel spoke of the time that the Messiah would return. If the chief Priests and elders had numbered their days as instructed in the scriptures, they could have known who the Messiah would have been. Daniel said the time of the Israelites would be 490 years. He said it would be 7 periods of 70 or 490 years. The Messiah would come after 69 of those periods or 483 years.<sup>38</sup> The beginning point for the counting of the days began in the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of the King Artaxerxes.<sup>39</sup>

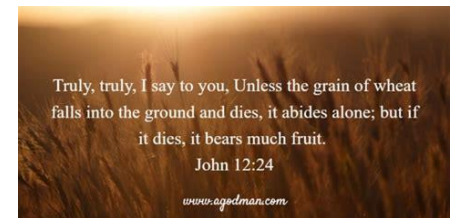


It was then that the decree was given to rebuild the temple. If they had numbered every day since that time, they would have seen that the 483 years were completed the very day that Jesus of Nazareth rode into Jerusalem.<sup>40</sup> No wonder Jesus scolded those “teachers of the law.”

## I. The Hour of Fulfilled Prophecy II. The Hour of Dying to Self Had Arrived

The hour had come for Christ to give His life. The parable of the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to self is the model that Jesus is teaching here. Through the death of one person, Christ, the Messiah, there was to be new life given. Heaven’s loss was our gain.

One of the themes that Jesus taught was dying to self. Verse 25 says, “*He who loves his life will lose it and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*” So many people in this world are more concerned about their comfort, pleasure, and possessions than they are the eternal souls of those around them.



One of the things I have been struggling with this past week is the recognized weakness in myself to desire the things of the world more than the things of God. Oh, I do study the things of God, read about the subjects related to God, but am I REALLY concerned about the person down the street or next door that needs to know about the saving relationship that is only found in Christ? In my head I know that there are people that if they continue in the same path they are going, when they die, they will go straight to

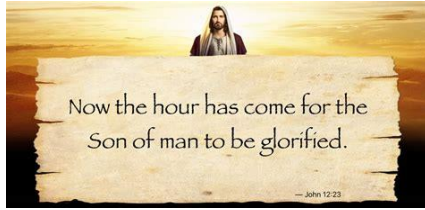
hell! There are no two ways about it. My struggle is “Do I care enough to reach out to them?” What about you, do you care enough to do something about it?

### **I. The Hour of Fulfilled Prophecy**

### **II. The Hour of Dying to Self Has Arrived**

### **III. The Hour of Glorification Has Come**

In verse 27, Jesus said His soul was troubled. He knew that His hour had come. He was to bear the sin of the entire world upon Him. He who was without sin was made to be sin for us. He bore in His body the marks of sin for us. Every sin we have ever committed, the punishment was laid on him. The crushing sin of all humanity was placed upon this man. Jesus saw the coming doom and cried out to God. “*Father save me from this hour?*” But in resignation and understanding for you and me he replied, “*But for His purpose I came to this hour.*”



In the midst of this pending hour, Jesus did what we should do when we face any trial. “*Glorify the name of the Father.*” There are three times when the voice of God comes and confirms who Jesus is and what He is doing. The first time was at the Baptism of Jesus. God said, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matthew 3:17) The second is at the mount of Transfiguration when Jesus met with Moses and Elijah in their glorified bodies. A voice from heaven said, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, Hear Him!*” (Matthew 17:5) The third time is given here for those that were standing with Jesus.

God responded, “*I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.*”

The call to worship we sang earlier is a perfect response to God in our lives. <sup>41</sup>

Father (Jesus, Spirit), we love You,  
we worship and adore You,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.



C. S. Lewis in the book *Mere Christianity* said that we are not complete as individuals until we recognize we are connected to God. Many individuals seek happiness outside of God and are never satisfied.

“The reason why it can never succeed is this. God made us; invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol (gasoline), and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.”<sup>42</sup>

Until we recognize the need for worship in our lives, we will be like a car trying to operate on water. It can't be done. Every day we need to set aside time to pray, read God's word, and have a time of personal worship.



- I. The Hour of Fulfilled Prophecy**
- II. The Hour of Dying to Self Has Arrived**
- III. The Hour of Glorification Has Come**
- IV. Our Hour of Decision Has Come.**

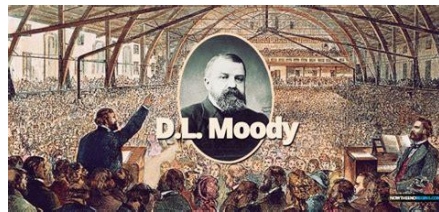
In verse 35, Jesus told his disciples that the light would be with them for a little while. He told them that *“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”*



All through my life there seems a right time to do certain things. When I was nine years old, I accepted Christ. When the opportunity came to serve the people of Spilman, it came just at the right time as well. God has reassured me time and time again about the decisions I have made.

There is a time and season for everything. According to Ecclesiastes there is a time to plant and a time to harvest. An hour appointed for every activity.

D. L. Moody relates the right time related to salvation.



“I remember when Mr. Sankey and I were in Chicago preaching, we had been five Sunday nights on the life of Christ. We had taken Him from the cradle, and on the fifth night we had just got Him up to where we have Him today. He was in the hands of Pilate, and Pilate did not know what to do with Him. I

remember distinctly, for I made one of the greatest mistakes that night that I have ever made.”

“After I had nearly finished my sermon, I said, “I want you to take this home with you, and next Sunday night we will see what you will do with Him.” Well, after a while the meeting closed, and we had a second meeting. The people gathered in the room, and Mr. Sankey during the service sang a hymn, and as he got down to the verse, “The Savior calls, for refuge fly,” I saw I had made a mistake in telling the people that next week they could answer. I saw that it was wrong to put off answering the question.”

“After the meeting, I started to go home. They were ringing the fire alarm at the time and it proved to be the death knell of the city. I didn’t know what it meant, and so went home. That night the fire raged through the city, destroying everything in its path, and before the next morning the very hall where we had gathered was ashes. People rushed through the streets crazed with fear, and some of those who were at the meeting were burned to death. O what a mistake to put off the answer! May God forgive me! “Today, the Savior calls; for refuge fly!”<sup>43</sup>



Our challenge today is: “What will you do with Your hour?”



Will you glorify the Father in worship?

Will you accept His invitation to become a child of God?

Will you return back to your homes and ignore your neighbor in need of salvation?

Will you come to Him as he calls?

What will you do with Your hour?

**LET US PRAY**

## Endnotes: Prophecies and their Fulfillment

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|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| <sup>1</sup> Genesis 3:15  | Galatians 4:4          |                     |
| <sup>2</sup> Genesis 12:3  | Matthew 1:1            |                     |
| <sup>3</sup> Genesis 17:19   | Romans 9:7             |                     |
| <sup>4</sup> Genesis 18:18   | Galatians 3:8          |                     |
| <sup>5</sup> Genesis 49:10   | Revelation 5:5         |                     |
| <sup>6</sup> Numbers 24:17-19,   | Matthew 2:2            |                     |
| <sup>7</sup> Deuteronomy. 18:15,18, 19   | John 6:14              |                     |
| <sup>8</sup> 2 Samuel 7:12,13,16, 25   | Matthew 19:28          |                     |
| <sup>9</sup> Hosah 11:1  | Matthew 2:14           |                     |
| <sup>10</sup> Joel 2:28-32   | Acts 2:17-21           | Romans 10:13        |
| <sup>11</sup> Amos 8:9   | Matthew 24:29          |                     |
| <sup>12</sup> Micah 5:2  | Matthew 2:1            | Luke 2:4,10,11      |
| <sup>13</sup> Micah 2:12,13  | John 10:14,26          |                     |
| <sup>14</sup> Malachi 3:1  | Matthew 10:11          | Mark 1:2            |
|  | Luke 7:27              | Hebrews 1:3         |
| <sup>15</sup> Isaiah 2:2-4   | Luke 24:47             |                     |
| <sup>16</sup> Isaiah 9:1,2   | Matthew 4:14-16        | Luke 2:23           |
| <sup>17</sup> Isaiah 11:1-10   | Matthew 3:16           | John 3:34           |
| <sup>18</sup> Isaiah 33:22   | Luke 1:32              | 1 Timothy 1:17 6:15 |
| <sup>19</sup> Isaiah 7:14  | Matthew 1:22,23        | Matthew 11:5        |
| <sup>20</sup> Isaiah 29:18,19  | Matthew 5:3            | Matthew 11:5        |
| <sup>21</sup> Isaiah 42:1-16   | Matthew 12:17-21       |                     |
| <sup>22</sup> Psalms 22:1-31   | Matthew 27:31-42       | Mark 15:20          |
| <sup>23</sup> Exodus 12:46   | John 19:36             |                     |
| <sup>24</sup> Psalms 69:21   | Matthew 27:34,48       |                     |
| <sup>25</sup> Psalms 31:5  | Luke 23:46             |                     |
| <sup>26</sup> Psalms 27:12   | Matthew 26:60,61       |                     |
| <sup>27</sup> Psalms 41:9  | Matthew 26:14-16,47,50 |                     |
| <sup>28</sup> Psalms 38:11   | Matthew 27:55          |                     |
| <sup>29</sup> Zechariah 12:10  | John 19:34, 37         |                     |
| <sup>30</sup> Zechariah 13:1, 6, 7   | Matthew 26:31          |                     |
| <sup>31</sup> Zechariah 11:12,13   | Matthew 26:14,15: 27:9 |                     |
| <sup>32</sup> Isaiah 53:7  | John 1:29 11:49-52     |                     |
| <sup>33</sup> Isaiah 50:6  | Matthew 26:67          | John 19:1           |
| <sup>34</sup> Isaiah 53:12   | John 12:37,38          | Acts 8:28-35        |
| <sup>35</sup> Isaiah 53:9  | Acts 10:43 13:38,39    | 1 John 1:7,9        |
| <sup>36</sup> Isaiah 32:1-4  | Revelation 19:16 20:6  |                     |
| <sup>37</sup> Zechariah 9:9  | Matthew 21:4, 7        |                     |
| <sup>38</sup> Daniel 9:24-27   | Luke 19:41-44          |                     |
| <sup>39</sup> Nehemiah 2:1   |                        |                     |
| <sup>40</sup> “The Hand Writing On the Wall” study guide by David Jeremiah vol. 3, p. 36 |                        |                     |
| <sup>41</sup> Baptist Hymnal 1991 version # 249, <i>Glorify Thy Name</i> by Donna Adkins |                        |                     |
| <sup>42</sup> <i>Mere Christianity</i> , by C.S. Lewis page 50.                          |                        |                     |
| <sup>43</sup> Heartwarming Bible Illustrations, Number 770, “Dangerous Delay”            |                        |                     |