

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IHOP BIBLE STUDY**

Topic: John 11:1 to 12: 50 “The work of God taught,” as “Prep for death.”

NOTE: This is our fourth major section of the Summary Chart of John’s Gospel. This chart is available elsewhere on our website. Today’s session is the second of two studies in this section.

I. Read the assignment in one reading.

This is a long reading and covers a lot of ideas. However, it is helpful to organize these things in the following manner:

1. Seeing through the things of this world.

- a. The death of Lazarus 11: 1 – 16, 11: 38 to 44.
Especially, see 11: 9, 10 “A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world’s light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light.”
- b. “I am the resurrection and the life.” 11:17 – 37
- c. The plot to kill Jesus. As far as I know, this is the only place in the New Testament that clearly lays out the rationale for killing Jesus.
“You do not realize that it is better for you that one man dies for the people than that the whole nation perish.” Read 11: 45 to 53.

This gospel writer turns this statement inside out in 11:51 –53, “He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, *and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God to bring them together and make them one.*” (*Italics mine.*)

John uses this material as the transition into the second part of our lesson, which is:

2. Seeing through to the things of the spirit.

- a. Jesus’ anointed at Bethany. 12: 1 – 11
- b. The Triumphal entry 12: 12 – 15
- c. Glorification, judgment and light 12: 20 – 36
- d. The prophecy of 1st Isaiah 6:10 and 2nd Isaiah 53:1

John, our writer of this gospel, is telling us a story to support his purpose. Like the author of any story (ditto for movie directors, song writers, and other artists), he is out to prove his point. Each of the gospel writers is doing likewise. John is writing for the Jewish Diaspora who are spread across the Roman world that is Greek thinking.

His point is: Jesus bears within his body the Anointed Logos. Jesus is the Christ whose purpose is to reveal that dying to this world reveals our inner spiritual kingdom. I call it our Inner Cathedral.

Observe that John tells no birth story, but begins his story with the **BAPTISM OF JESUS**. Baptism is the method used to die to this world, and to experience a bodily resurrection that awakens us to the realm of the spirit already within us.

John tells us this story over and over:

Changing water to wine 2: 1 - 11; teaches Nicodemus about new birth 3: 1 – 21; teaches the Samaritan woman about the water of eternal life 4: 1 – 26; the healings and miracles 4: 43 to 6: 59, and 9: 1 - 41; Jesus' teachings in 7: 1 to 8: 59, and 10: 1 – 42.

The death and raising of Lazarus is mining this same vein. Note that each time the events get more elaborate. This continues on until the finale in chapter 19 and 20. The grand finale is the appearance of the Jesus who now represents the Perfect At-One-Ment set free *in this world* to become the prism through which the Awakened can glimpse the World of the Spirit.

- II. The assignment, if you can contain your excitement, is to research the following:
 - A. Glorification. See what you can find. Then, ask yourself how you experience glorification. Run it through your gut!
 - B. Research the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. See what you can find about 1st Isaiah and 2nd Isaiah.
 - C. Work on what the “judgment” might be in 12: 27 to 33? Work with the statement “The reward for the deed is found in the deed itself.”
 - D. Who is the “prince of this world? 12: 31b It is helpful to remember that evil is always the Big Lie. In light of what John is out to convince us, what is the message of the Big Liar? Where do you experience it?