

I. INTRO

A. The details matter

John 12:1 (TLB) Six days before the Passover ceremonies began, Jesus arrived in Bethany where Lazarus was—the man he had brought back to life.

- Jesus was in Bethany where Lazarus was raised from the dead, and was headed to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover

B. The people are celebrating, but don't understand why

John 12:9-16 (TLB) When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus. The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: "Don't be afraid of your King, people of Israel, for he will come to you meekly, sitting on a donkey's colt!" (His disciples didn't realize at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy; but after Jesus returned to his glory in heaven, then they noticed how many prophecies of Scripture had come true before their eyes.)

C. The crowd

- **The Passover crowds**
- **The Curious:** They wanted to see Lazarus who had been raised from the dead
- **The Roman Soldiers:** Had to keep the peace
- **Religious Leaders:** Plotting to kill Lazarus and Jesus

II. PASSOVER

A. What is Passover?

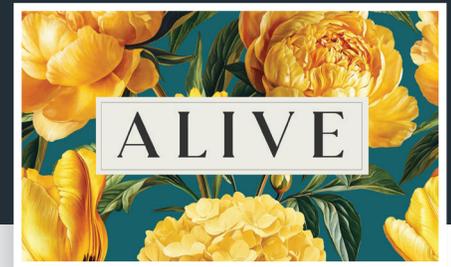
- Found in Exodus 12 – The blood of the lamb

Exodus 12:13 (TLB) The blood you have placed on the doorposts will be proof that you obey me, and when I see the blood I will pass over you and I will not destroy your firstborn children when I smite the land of Egypt.

B. The Passover Meal was a yearly celebration

C. The world knocks on the door

John 12:20-21 (NLT) Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus."



III. THE SEED FALLS

A. Jesus pivots from Passover to farming

John 12:23-25 (NLT) Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives

B. The power of a seed

- One seed goes into the ground...and comes out **multiplied dozens of times**
- Harvest can only come through seeds
- Multiplication out of death

IV. ALIVE

A. Two things happen at the same time

- The crowd shouted, “Hosanna — save us now.” And Jesus answered that prayer...just not the way they expected

B. Alive: Life comes through surrender

John 12:24-25 (NLT) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

C. Palm Sunday asks us a hard question

- **What kind of Savior are you looking for?**
 - One who fits your agenda?
 - One who blesses your plans but never interrupts them?
 - One who removes pressure and pain?
 - Or one who brings transformation and growth?
- Jesus did not come merely to improve lives. He came to bring dead things back to life