



**WEEK 8 | JOHN 12**  
**THE VERDICT**

This week we hit the climax of the theme of judgement in John's gospel. Each person's judgement about Jesus ends up being shown for what it is in this culminating scene. Jesus' moment of glory has finally come! But the kind of judgement and glory that people expect to see in a great king is quite different to what Jesus has in mind for himself.

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## ISRAEL JUDGES JESUS

**Read John 12:1-19**

1. What was Mary's judgment of Jesus?
2. What was Judas Iscariot's judgment of Jesus?
3. What judgment have the chief priests already made about Jesus?
4. What judgment does the great crowd make of Jesus? Does John think they get it right? (see v15-16)

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## ... WHICH JUDGES THEM

**Read John 12:20-36**

5. "Glory" is a big idea from v23-29. What's it all about?
6. How does Jesus reverse the judgments of this world in v25-26?
7. In verses 31-32 Jesus says the "lifting up of the Son of Man" is going to both "drive out the Prince of this world" and "draw all people to himself". How does his death both defeat evil and attract people? Have you seen first hand evidence of each of these?

This final section gives us John's summary of how different groups of people judged Jesus in his day, and Jesus' final judgement of them.

**Read John 12:37-50**

8. Summarise the two responses John describes among the Jews in v37-43. What are some of the factors that influence their conclusions?

From your personal experience, is it only "facts and logic" that determine how people respond to Jesus? What else?

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## WHAT'S YOUR VERDICT?

Many people would say that they quite 'like' Jesus. He taught good morals and helped the poor, even if he wasn't actually from God. But very few of our friends would think that their verdict on Jesus has real life consequences.

9. What big consequences does Jesus claim will flow from our verdict on him? (Discuss the apparent tension between v47 and 48.)

10. How does this chapter leave you feeling about

- a) the way Jesus has been "glorified"
- b) the consequences for his followers in this life (verse 25)
- c) the eternal consequences for everyone.

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## JUDGING JESUS

What we think about Ghandi, Mother Theresa, Princess Diana and Donald Trump doesn't actually change much. You can respond to them however you like. Jesus is different. In John 12 our *Judging Jesus* theme comes to a climax. The chief priest and Pharisees have already decided to kill him. But in God's great plan, this is simply going to be the way Jesus, and God's own name, are glorified. Death will give way to life. Jesus will come through victorious - and those who have rejected him will find themselves under judgment. The stakes are high. All of us need to decide where we stand with Jesus!



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