

From a talk by B. Cobbey Crisler
Book of John, A Walk with the Beloved Disciple

(from Transcription Notes with earlier permission from Janet Crisler)
 I'm quite sure he would have bumped his head several times on his way out.

There's another part of the healing that's necessary. "Jesus turns to those around him," the environment, holding him in this grave, "and says, 'Loose him, and let him go.'" There is a sense of freedom which is so important. Remember what he says to a woman in another gospel, Luke 13:12, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity."]

John 11:46, Guess what? With the marvelous raising of Lazarus from the dead, there are informers. Rather than spreading the good news, they have to go report. "They went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done."

John 11:47, "That's when they have a meeting about him."

John 11:54 "And Jesus can no more walk openly; but goes north into a wilderness," staying out of reach temporarily.

Chapter 12:1 begins where he revisits "Bethany." **Palm Sunday** "hour is come" John 12:1

John 12:2, "Lazarus, Mary, and Martha there, Lazarus eating supper with them."

John 12:9 shows that, "a crowd begins to assemble. They hear that not only Jesus is there but Lazarus is a co-celeb." Bethany is only about a mile and a quarter from Jerusalem, so all of Jerusalem has been aware of this raising of the dead in their vicinity. "So people are coming to see Lazarus."

In John 12:10, look at "what the chief priests are consulting about." Lazarus has just gotten out of the tomb and they want to stuff him back in! Because he was really walking evidence of God's word.

Here comes what's been called Palm Sunday and we find the general populace greeting him, even the children in other gospel accounts (Matthew 21:9, 15).

John 12:13, "Calling him the King of Israel, Hosanna," all Messianic terms, in recognition of Jesus' Messianic roles.

John 12:14, "When Jesus chooses a young ass to ride into Jerusalem." Dr. Bull makes an interesting point here, he says, "No where else are we told in the gospel that Jesus rides anywhere. The presumption is that he walks. But here, very close

to Jerusalem, where the walk isn't that long, he makes a point of having a special form of transportation. It so happens that, although I've not seen this in any book, we are faced with another Messianic symbol. When Solomon was anointed king, that's the way he came into Jerusalem, on the back of David's mule. It also has to do with prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 where it talks about, "*the king coming to Zion sitting on an ass's colt.*" The disciples don't understand that until much later.

John 12:18

What was the whole motive for people showing up for Palm Sunday? It isn't because Jesus was making a triumphal entry into the city. It's because of John 12:18. They'd heard about the miracle. It is a popular recognition of the raising of the dead. Just as a week later, Easter will become the same thing, commemorating the raising of the dead. This was Jesus' first popular reception into Jerusalem. Crowds were lining the roads, cheering him in Messianic terms. Only a week later he will be led out of the same gate to be crucified. Maybe the lesson is "Beware triumphal entries"? There is human nature in its extremes again, within a week the crowd turns.

Notice what happens in John 12:20, "*Certain Greeks are there.*"

John 12:21. Only speaking Greek, "*they come to Philip, and said, we would like to see Jesus.*"

John 12:22, "*Philip goes and tells Andrew and says, Andrew, there are a couple of fellows here who want to see Jesus.*"

John 12:23

John 12:23. Andrew and Philip together go to Jesus. There is a lot of red tape, but it does have some interesting connotations. Philip and Andrew are the only disciples that have Greek names. Why would the Greeks go to them? To give some indications that they were adept at conversing in that language.

Jesus does not give a direct answer to this. But notice what he says, "*The hour is come,*" the prophetic hour, "*that the Son of Man should be glorified.*" Why? With Gentiles suddenly reaching out towards Christianity, would Jesus see this as a sign of the approaching end of his mission?

John 12:32

In John 12:32 he says, "*I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me.*" He saw that the Gentiles were beginning to be attracted to Christianity. His earthly mission was drawing to a close.]