

Welcome the King March 25, 2018

John 12:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor...

Jesus stops in Bethany right before He gets to Jerusalem.

John 12:2-3 (NIV)

² Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4-8 (NIV)

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

This is one of the most beautiful acts of worship in scripture.

All of her mind, heart and eyes were focused on God.

- Even when they began to rebuke her and tell her how bad her decision was, she didn't listen.
- She was in the moment with Jesus and nothing else mattered.
- She understood that every moment spent with Jesus was precious.

She gave all she could, all she had and God did not leave where she was. She knew the importance of the moment.

Luke 14:33 (NIV)

³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

One woman took her most valuable possession and gave it to the Lord.
WHY WOULD SHE DO IT?

Philippians 3:8 (NIV)

⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

The Disciples missed the opportunity. Judas said...

- Why wasting?
- Why not give it to the poor?

Opportunities come and go, and once they are gone they are gone forever.

What a lesson for all of us.

- We must grasp the opportunity to show our love and sacrifice for Christ when it presents itself.
- In fact life, which is an opportunity and a privilege within itself, it will pass and pass soon.

Jesus says...

John 12:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

Whether she knew what she was doing or not, Jesus took her act and applied it to His death.

- Praised her for giving her best
- She was preparing his body for burial after crucifixion
- Sees what is to come/ loves on Jesus right then and there
- Jesus honors her by telling what she did

APPLICATION

- She gave Jesus the best she had to offer. And because of the attitude of her heart, Jesus honored her by including her story of giving in all four gospels.

If you do what you can with what you have God will not leave you where you are!!

What do people that Love do?

They give, and the greatest example of ultimate giving and surrender was what happened at the cross over 2000 years ago.

What will you do with His gift this Easter?