

“Mary’s Worship” • John 12:1–11

Mt. Lassen Community Church • March 15, 2026

Intro • How would you define the word “worship”? What are various examples of worship in scripture? Does the modern idea of Christian “worship” capture the right idea of worship from the Bible?

John 12:1–2a • Lesson from Martha’s service

Compare this to **Luke 10:38–42**. Martha has found a new joy and contentment in service. Why? What’s different? Answer: *Lazarus’ resurrection!* In the same way: *We have been raised, as well! We have new life!* So—what should our heart and attitude be like? Why?

Discuss • Why do Christians nit-pick, complain, focus on the negatives, and get jealous of others in ministry, like the Old Martha? How can we be more like the New Martha?

12:2b / 9–11 • Lesson from Lazarus’ fellowship

People have come to this feast because of Lazarus! He is a testimony and witness to what Jesus has done. Lazarus never speaks verbally in scripture, but his life preaches volumes! What put Lazarus in such a unique place of witnessing of Christ? (**John 11:3**)

Discuss • How do you foster a friendship with Jesus? How do you abide with Him? And how has intimacy with Jesus made you into a witness for others to see His work and power? If this isn’t true in you—make a plan to grow! What new things can you do to “recline at the table with Him”?

Vs 3–8 • Lessons from Mary’s worship

What her oil represents →

What her hair represents →

How this defines her worship →

What the fragrance represents (2 answers) →

Compare this to King David (1 Chronicles 15)

Mary is scorned →

THEREFORE, OUR WORSHIP SHOULD BE →

- A right response to His sacrifice for us
- An intimate gift of ourselves / our whole self
- A fragrance that can bless others
- Unashamed
- Personal
- Fitting for the occasion (1 Cor 14:40)

Discuss • Jesus was anointed by the sinful woman in Luke 7, and by his dear friend and disciple in John 12. This was a similar act, but with a different motive. Step into Mary’s mind. Imagine & share what was she might have been thinking and feeling in this moment.

Discuss • What is YOUR personal takeaway from Mary’s worship? How do you want to see your worship transformed? How can your worship better reflect the sacrifice of Christ?