



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: June 28, 2020

Passage: John 12:1-19

Theme: The Glory and Grace of King Jesus

1. John 12:1-8 :: Jesus anointed as king and corpse at Bethany
 - Mary's personal devotion to Christ resulted in her lavishly pouring out what was of great value to her
 - We strive to preserve what we are most devoted to.
 - "Mary displayed the true posture of the Christian disciple." (Klink)

The glory and grace of God transform our *values* (and our relationship to material things)

 - Mary evaluated the worth of the perfume based on its relation to the worth of Christ
 - Judas evaluated the worth of the perfume based only on its financial worth
 - Mary was devoted to Christ, and she discarded financial value in order to gain Christ (Matthew 13:44-46)
 - Judas was devoted to money, and he discarded Christ in order to gain money (Matthew 6:24)

Point: What we *value* reveals what we are truly *devoted* to, and we will be devoted to that which we are convinced will give us the fullest life (John 10:10).
2. John 12:9-11 :: Lazarus is targeted
 - Misplaced devotion makes us irrational
 - Those associated with Jesus become a threat to fragile systems of hope and suffer persecution for it
3. John 12:12-19 :: The Triumphal Entry
 - Jesus is embraced as King (vv. 12-13)
 - Jesus embraces their proclamation (vv. 14-15)
 - ✦ Chooses a donkey instead of a war horse – humility of Christ
 - ✦ Will conquer those aligned with evil, because he is good (Zechariah 9:10)

- ✦ Peace is experienced by being reconciled to God, through Christ's death, which conquers sin and saves (Hosanna!)
- Jesus' glory came through the shame of the cross and honor from his Father
 - Jesus' glory (death, resurrection, and giving of the Holy Spirit) opens our eyes to perceive the glory and worth of Jesus as King (vv. 16-17)
 - Living for the glory of God threatens the world's system of hope and will bring opposition (vv. 18-19)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does stinginess (with our time, money, resources, etc.) reveal about our devotion?
2. What does Mary teach us about the posture of a disciple of Jesus?
3. How is your relationship to money and material possessions? Are they rightly related to Jesus to be *used* to serve others and glorify God, or are they misplaced and *loved* for their own sake?
4. How does devotion to Jesus affect our engagement in the social issues of our day (racial strife, poverty, sexual exploitation, oppression of the weak, and other manifestations of human suffering)?
5. What are the implications of Jesus' humility for those who follow him? (See Philippians 2:1-11) Where is there pride that needs to be put to death in order to better represent Christ?
6. We are consistently faced with options to sit upon metaphorical war horses (displays of strength, power, authority, conquering) or donkeys (displays of humility, meekness, service, peace). In your spheres of influence (home, work, community, church), which will choose this week as you follow your King?

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