

5/19/96

Adoration At It's Best!

Jn. 12:1-11

Have you ever been at a big dinner somewhere of friends or even family member are and as the night goes on you were able to see the various kinds of love for the one who invited them?

If you have, it has been at least in four ways.

1. Their words.
2. Their actions.
3. Their tone of voice.
4. Their facial expressions.

We want to look at the anointing of Jesus during the supper that took place at Bethany which reveals three kinds of loves to us.

- I. Love for Jesus. vs. 1-3
- II. Love for self. vs. 4-8
- III. Love for sinners. vs. 9-11

I. Love for Jesus. vs. 1-3

- A. The supper took place the last week of our Lord's ministry. vs. 1a-b
 1. John tells us that Jesus arrived six days before the Passover, not that the supper took place on that day.

2. Matthew and Mark tells us that it was on the second day before the Passover, Tuesday, that the supper took place. Matt. 26:2, Mk. 14:1, 3
3. The Passover is the one in which Jesus will be put to death.
4. The day when Jesus arrived was most likely Friday evening before the Sabbath.
 - * When preached the sermon, I stated incorrectly the supper was Saturday.

B. The supper was at Bethany. vs. 1c-d

1. Bethany was the destination of Jesus coming from Jericho where he visited Zacchaeus. Lk. 18:35-19:10
2. Bethany was the place where Lazarus had been raised from the dead. 11:43
3. Bethany was the place from which Jesus had removed Himself from the Jew as they sought to kill Him. 11:53-54
4. Bethany was the place where the one whom He loved lived. 11:3
5. Bethany was where the supper took place at the house of Simon the leper. Matt. 26:6, Mk. 14:3

C. The supper was in honor of Jesus. vs. 2

1. The supper without any doubt was in gratitude of the raising of Lazarus. vs. 2a
2. The sister of Lazarus, Martha served. vs. 2b

* Martha had learned to operate her gift without complaining and bringing attention to herself. Lk. 10:40

3. The man Lazarus who had been brought back to life sat in the place of honor with Jesus at the Table. vs. 2c

D. The supper was interrupted by Mary. vs. 3

1. Mary anointed the feet of Jesus. vs. 3a

* Matthew and Mark tell us she began at His head. Matt. 26:7, Mk. 14:3

- a. The amount was a pound or twelve ounces.
- b. The quality was unadulterated spikenard from India.
* Such is mentioned in the song of Solomon, “The Shulamite ‘While the king is at his table, My spikenard sends forth its fragrance’. 1:12
- c. The woman Mary was declaring that their was nothing too valuable that could be given to Jesus.

2. Mary wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair. vs. 3b

- a. The hair of a woman is declared to be her glory. 1Cor. 11:15
- b. The hair of a woman would never be let down in public for it was a sign of immorality and loose living.
- c. The woman Mary was placing the glory of the woman at His feet in

adoration and worship of who He was.

3. Mary affected the atmosphere. vs. 3c
 - a. The house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.
 - b. The act was to be the customary duty of a the lowest of slaves as the guest arrived.
 - c. The responsibility would fall on the master of the house if he had no slave.
* Mary was declaring to Jesus in deed her attitude of a slave of the cross!
4. The anointing by Mary should not be confused with the one in Luke when the prostitute washes the Lord’s feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair. Lk. 7:38
 - a. The house is the one of Simon the Pharisee.
 - b. The event and message is entirely different.
* The High Priest was anointed with blood on his right ear, in order to hear the voice of God, the right thumb, to do the work of God, an the right big toes, to walk in the ways of God. Ex. 29:20

Illustration

Louis IX of France, when he was young, married the princess Margaret of Province. On his

weeding ring was engraved: “God, France, Margaret”, and he used to say, “I have no love outside that ring.” This was the secret of his being known to history as saint Louis. # 3225

Application

1. Do you break bread with Him regularly out of your love for Him?
2. Do you express your gratitude to Jesus as you sit at His feet or is it only when you are at church or before people?
3. Do people know that you do what you do and how you do it because you want to honor Jesus or self?
4. Do you take what is the best and give it to Jesus or is He constantly getting your leftovers?
5. Do you think that there are some things that are to valuable or costly to give to Him?

Love for Jesus is for having raised us from our dead state and made us alive!

II. Love for self. vs. 4-8

- A. The subtle disciple was Judas. vs.4
 1. He was one of the twelve disciples.
 2. He was the one who would betray Jesus.
 3. He was one who ate, walked and talked with Jesus.
 4. He was present at the miracles with Jesus.
- B. The seeming concern appeared honorable. vs.5

1. The tone of his voice can only be guessed at but knowing the context and the atmosphere it probably was in astonishment and indignation in order to appear sensitive.
 2. The presence of many people would cause them to think how spiritual he was.
 3. The amount declared would cause others to think and consider the waste, \$300.
 - * One years wages.
 4. The concern for the poor would bring him favor in the eyes of some even implying that he was more sensitive and caring than Jesus.
 - a. Judas like people don't like to share the center stage but like to be it!
 - b. Judas like people like to rob people in the true work of God by questioning it and bringing opposition to it!
 - * Why did they spend \$50,000 for “Somebody Loves You”, it could of been used in so many other ways!
- C. The simple commentary revealed his dishonesty. vs.6
1. John tells us that he did not care for the poor. vs. 6a-b
 2. John declares that he did what he did due to the fact that he was a thief. vs. 6c
 3. John reveals that Judas was the treasurer and that he not only carried the box but carried from the box money. vs. 6d-e

- D. The sensitive command of Jesus rebuked Judas. vs. 7-8
1. Jesus commanded that Mary be left alone. vs. 7a-b
 2. Jesus commended Mary for what she had done, her deed was for the keeping of His burial. vs. 7c
 3. Jesus commended Mary for her priorities, the poor were not the priority at that moment seeing they will always be with man but not Himself. vs. 8
 - * "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Matt. 26:13

Illustration

Absalom said to the people at the gate, "Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you." Moreover Absalom would say, 'Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice.' And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." 2Sam. 15:3-6

Application

1. People who are Judas like are always among the people of God.
2. People who love like Judas always sound so honorable and spiritual when they talk.
3. People who love like Judas are not concerned with the poor or anyone else except themselves.
4. People who love like Judas are sooner or later exposed.

Love for self is always masqueraded to appear as love for others when in reality is hypocritical in it's nature!

III. Love for sinners. vs. 9-11

- A. Jesus did not deny those Jews who came. vs. 9
 1. The number is said to be a "great many" of the Jews.
 - a. They were the enemies of Jesus.
 - b. They were the ones who rejected God's word.
 - c. They were the ones who would crucify Him.
 2. The Jews came on their own accord.
 - a. They knew that Jesus was there, who raise Lazarus from the dead.
 - b. They knew Lazarus was there, hoping they might see him.
- B. Jesus knew the intent of the chief priests. vs. 10
 1. They were Sadducees.

- a. Who were the aristocrats and materialist of the day.
 - b. Who did not believe in spirits.
 - c. Who did not believe in angels.
 - d. Who did not believe in the resurrection, therefore Lazarus was an embarrassment.
2. They took council to put Lazarus to death as well as Jesus.
- a. Jesus was the cause of their problems.
 - b. Lazarus was the effect of their problems.
- C. Jesus was using Lazarus to point them to Himself. vs. 11
- 1. On account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.
 - 2. On account of the raising of him they believed. Jn. 11:45
 - 3. The entire book of John has been written for the purpose of believing that Jesus is the Christ and in believing people might have life in His name. Jn. 20:21
* Nicodemus, the woman of Samaria, the blind man etc!

Illustration

Dr. Livingstone at one time had not seen another white man for thirteen years. He loved the sinner so much that when other missionaries arrived at a village he had been at, he said he was no longer needed and

was going to move on to find others. When the village heard it, the entire village packed to move with him.

Application

- 1. Do you deny some to hear the word of salvation or think them beyond salvation?
- 2. Do you pray and reach out to those who attack you and dislike you if the opportunity arises?
- 3. Do you allow God to use you to reach out to others on a daily basis?
- 4. Do you allow God to use what He has done in your life to reveal the power and grace of Christ to others with discretion and wisdom?

Love for sinners is evidence of God's love through us for Jesus!

Conclusion

The anointing of Jesus during the supper that took place at Bethany reveals three kinds of loves to us.

- I. Love for Jesus is an expression of gratitude for having raised us from our dead state and made us alive!
 - II. Love for self is an expression of hypocrisy that always masquerades as love for others!
 - III. Love for sinners as an expression of God's love through us for sinners!
* Notice the order!
1. Love for Jesus will keep me from love for self!

2. Love for self will keep me from love for sinners!

3. Love for Jesus will keep me in love with sinners!

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