

Walking with Jesus
Ch. 12
“A Calling to Worship”

John 12

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. 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. **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.” **9** Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **10** So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, **11** for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

Vs. 1

“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.”

- This is important because Jesus is about to be crucified on the Passover that is coming up.
- John indicates the time telling us that this was the last week before the death and burial of Jesus.

- Almost one-half of John's Gospel is given to this last week of Jesus's life up to the cross. Matthew used more than 33% of his Gospel to cover this week, Mark nearly 40% and Luke over 25%.

Vs. 2-3a

2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. **3a** Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet

Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead...
 Jesus is there with them and they are honoring Him...
 This is a Church Service...

This Church Service is like any other, there are multiple things going on:

1. One Person was Serving...
2. Several people were Reclining...
3. One Person was Worshipping at the Feet of Jesus...

- Can I tell you today that all 3 were important...
- If your going to have a dinner someone has to cook...
- Martha's part here is perhaps overlooked and under appreciated, but can I tell you it was important...
- I would expect that Martha knowing that she was serving Jesus was doing it with all her heart...
- I would expect that Lazarus after freshly being raised from the dead was genuinely interested in what Jesus had to say...

But there is one person here who, without meaning to, kind of steels the show...

Vs. 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.**

3 Things about Mary's Worship

1. It was Unforgettable

“And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

Can you imagine the powerful fragrance in the room?

There are very few things more powerful to trigger a thought or memory than a fragrance...

Story: A Ride at Disney Land: Soarin

Most likely forever sealed in everyones memories there was the smell of fragrance that came from Mary's Worship to Jesus that day...

Jesus said in **Mark 14**

8 ...She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.
9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

2. It was Authentic

Interesting enough the word spikenard comes from the adj. which means Faithful, Reliable, Genuine...

How suitable is that for Mary's Worship that day...

Jesus you are Faithful & Genuine, Therefore Mary's worship was Faithful & Genuine...

Mary's Worship that day was so Genuine that it moved the heart of Jesus...

3. It was Costly

Spices and ointments were often used as an investment because they were small, portable, and could be easily sold. Judas believed this oil was worth 300 denarii, which was worth a year's wages for a working man.

There are a lot of Reason's why people give to God:

Some may give hoping to get.

Some may give because they feel should.

But Mary gave out of Whole Hearted Worship...
She gave sacrificially...

2 Samuel 24

21 Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?”
“To buy your threshing floor,” David answered, “so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped.”

22 Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up...”

24 But the king replied “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

4. It was Unashamed

It wasn't uncommon in their day for a guest to have their feet washed before a meal. But it was usually done with water and by a person who was the servant of the house.

Mary takes on the position of a servant and she doesn't use a towel she uses her hair. Jewish women kept their hair up, and their custom was very reserved. The fact that Mary wipes Jesus' feet with her hair shows she is unashamed to express her love for Him in this way.

Mary throughout the Gospels is a lesson in Devotion:

- Luke 10:39: Mary sat at Jesus' feet and *learned*.
- John 11:32: Mary fell at Jesus' feet and *surrendered*.
- John 12:3: Mary anointed Jesus' feet and *honored* Jesus.

Vs. 4-6

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.

Something Interesting is happening here...

Judas breaks the silence with his sharp sense of financial values – but no appreciation of what God valued. He thought this was *too much, even for Jesus*.

When a Generous Person gives a Greedy Person Criticizes...

A Greedy Person is only greedy when it goes to someone other than themselves...

Judas would have never had a problem if it had been given to him and I will prove it...

There are two Spirits at work in this Passage: The Spirit of Grace and the Spirit of Greed.

Mary has just witnessed the Grace of God in her life...

Lazarus has been raised from the Dead...

Jesus said, Didn't I tell you, if you believe you will see the Glory of God...

A Spirit of Greed is on Judas:

Vs. 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.

Note: John didn't know that when he wrote this. He had to go back and write that in his record. Only Jesus knew what was in Judas's heart.

Be careful Greed is contagious like the Coronavirus:

Mat 26:8

But when His disciples saw [it], they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?"

In John's Gospel it started with Judas

It's apparent Judas infected the other disciples.

Mat 26:14-16

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests
15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And

they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Judas wants what is offered for himself...

Because he doesn't get it here he later betrays Jesus for small sum of money...

It's interesting:

A worshiper of Jesus always asks what can I give...

A mocker of Jesus always asks what can I get...

Vs. 7, 9

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."

In the same way that it would be rude to loudly object to funeral expenses at the service for the deceased, so it was inappropriate for Judas or to put a price on Mary's love and devotion to Jesus while He was still alive.

You want to know what God says to people when they criticize your worship... When they criticize Your Sacrifice to God... Your Love and Devotion to God...

"Leave her alone,"

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied.

"Leave him alone," Jesus replied.

Mary's Worship is Prophetic

Mary's Worship is Preparatory

Mary was preparing Jesus for the most important thing he did on this earth...

Mary's Worship to this day reminds us that Whole Hearted Worship:

- 1. Is Unforgettable**
- 2. Is Authentic**
- 3. Is Costly**
- 4. Unashamed**