



LOVE DEMONSTRATED

John 11:45–12:11 • NIV

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: Mary's act of devotion demonstrates love for Jesus, while the chapter also shows the growing opposition against Him as Passover approaches.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW

The raising of Lazarus caused many people to believe in Jesus, but it also intensified the determination of the religious leaders to stop Him.

As the final Passover of Jesus' earthly ministry approached, John turns from the leaders' plot to a dinner in Bethany where Mary openly demonstrates her love and devotion to Jesus.

1. MANY BELIEVE — THE LEADERS PLOT | JOHN 11:45–57

- Many of the Jews who saw what happened with Lazarus believed in Jesus.
- Others reported what had happened to the Pharisees, and the chief priests and Pharisees called the Sanhedrin together.
- The leaders did not deny Jesus' miraculous signs; they feared the response of Rome if Jesus continued gaining a following.
- Caiaphas argued that it would be better for one man to die than for the whole nation to perish.
- John explains that Caiaphas's words unknowingly pointed to the spiritual reality that Jesus would die not only for Israel, but also to gather God's scattered children.
- The leaders made plans to kill Jesus, while Passover pilgrims began gathering in Jerusalem.

2. LOVE DEMONSTRATED | JOHN 12:1–8

- Six days before Passover, Jesus was in Bethany with Martha, Mary, Lazarus, and His disciples.
- Martha served, Lazarus was at the table, and Mary anointed Jesus' feet with costly perfume and wiped His feet with her hair.
- This was an act of devotion and a demonstration of her love.
- Judas criticized the act, saying the perfume could have been sold for about 300 denarii — roughly a year's wages.
- John tells us Judas did not truly care about the poor; he was a thief and had access to the money bag.
- Jesus defended Mary and connected her act with preparation for His burial, which was now only days away.

Supporting Scriptures on caring for the poor: Leviticus 19:9–10 • Proverbs 14:31 • 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12

3. LAZARUS — A LIVING TESTIMONY | JOHN 12:9–11

- Crowds came not only to see Jesus, but also Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.
- Because of Lazarus, many were leaving the religious leaders and believing in Jesus.
- The chief priests therefore made plans to kill Lazarus too.
- Lazarus stood as a living testimony of Christ's power.

LOVE DEMONSTRATED — PERSONAL STUDY

John 11:45–12:11

KEY TRUTHS FROM THE TEACHING

- Jesus desires to be worshipped.
- Service should not take the place of worship.
- Sit at His feet and demonstrate your love and devotion for Him.

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. Mary's act of devotion was a demonstration of her _____ for Jesus.
2. Service should not take the place of _____.

DEEPER THOUGHT

The same miracle caused many people to believe in Jesus while others moved closer to plotting His death. Why do you think people can see the same evidence and respond so differently?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Am I more concerned with pleasing people, or with pleasing God?

2. Has serving Jesus ever begun to replace simply sitting at His feet and worshipping Him?

3. What would a costly or intentional act of devotion to Jesus look like in my life this week?

4. Does my life give other people a visible testimony of Christ's power, the way Lazarus did?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Set aside intentional time this week to sit at Jesus' feet in worship and prayer. Ask the Lord to show you one practical way to demonstrate your love and devotion to Him.

NOTES
