

The Word Made Flesh:

The Complete Worshipper | John 12:1-7

Recap: Where We Are in the Story

We are in the Gospel of John, written by the beloved disciple, the closest friend of Jesus. John was present for the ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. He later helped lead the early church and cared for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

In chapters 1–11, Jesus has made an undeniable impact. Over roughly three years of ministry, He has:

- Healed the sick
- Walked on water
- Preached the ethics of the Kingdom
- Confronted corrupt religious leaders
- Publicly declared Himself to be God
- Raised Lazarus from the dead

People are beginning to believe. The Pharisees recognize that if this continues, they will lose control, influence, and praise. So they decide it is time not to imprison Jesus, but to eliminate Him.

This reveals something that remains true today: corrupt religious leaders crave control and recognition. When threatened, they silence and remove opposition.

Within this larger narrative, a subplot develops around one family: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

The Family of Bethany

Their story unfolds across:

- Luke 10
- John 11
- John 12

Luke 10

Jesus enters Martha's house. Martha serves anxiously while Mary sits at Jesus' feet listening. Martha grows frustrated and confronts Jesus. His response: Mary has chosen the better portion.

John 11

Lazarus becomes sick. Jesus delays two days, and Lazarus dies.

This time, the roles shift.

Martha pursues Jesus in her grief and declares deep theological truth.

Mary stays behind weeping and questioning.

Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, and he lives again.

That leads us to John 12.

The Setting: Passover

John frequently timestamps events around Jewish feasts.

Six days before Passover, Jesus is in Bethany.

Passover was instituted in Exodus as a reminder of God's deliverance from Egypt. Israel had been enslaved for 400 years. After nine plagues, Pharaoh still refused to release them. The tenth plague was the death of the firstborn.

God gave specific instructions:

- Take a spotless lamb
- Slay it
- Apply its blood to the doorposts
- Stay inside
- Be ready to leave

When the Lord saw the blood, He would pass over the home.

Passover became a feast commemorating that deliverance.

It is no accident that Jesus gives Himself up during Passover.

Everything about Passover points to Him:

- He is the Lamb
- He is the blood on the doorposts
- He is the Door
- He is the Deliverer

Just as God delivered Israel from Pharaoh, Jesus comes to deliver from sin and spiritual oppression.



The Premise: Do Not Judge Worship

In John 12 we see:

- Martha serving
- Mary sitting at His feet
- Lazarus resting and living his new life

This mirrors Luke 10, but something has changed.

In Luke 10, Martha judged Mary's worship.

In John 12, there is harmony.

All three are worshipping, but it looks different:

- Mary worships with affection and time
- Martha worships with service and generosity
- Lazarus worships by living and resting in resurrection life

No one is measuring each other. No one is angry. No one is comparing.

They are united by the object of their worship, not the method of their worship.

Most Christians live in Luke 10.

We need to live in John 12.

Legacy Church should look like John 12.

No one is allowed to believe their worship is superior or more mature than another's.

Three Modes of Worship

1. Mary – Affection and Time

Mary pours herself out at the feet of Jesus.

Her love is tangible. It is felt. It is expressed.

She demonstrates affection and devotion. She gives Him her time and attention.

We should all have moments like Mary:

- Private prayer
- Scripture reading
- Listening
- Pouring out affection

Jesus calls us to love Him with heart, soul, mind, and strength. This is loving Him with the heart.



We should feel something for Jesus, and it is right to express it.

2. Martha – Serving and Giving

Martha works. For her, worship includes action.

Serving the body is serving Christ.

But there is more happening here.

The perfume poured out was worth 300 denarii, roughly a year's wages. It was likely part of the family inheritance, something Martha would have overseen as the oldest sibling.

Mary pours it out, and Martha does not object.

Martha worships not only by serving but by giving sacrificially.

Worship includes stewardship. Not just ten percent, but viewing one hundred percent as God's.

3. Lazarus – Living and Resting

Lazarus does nothing but live.

He responded to the call of Jesus at the tomb: Live.

His rest is worship. His existence is testimony.

Every breath he takes is a response to resurrection life.

Worship is not only what we sing or serve. It is how we live daily in response to grace.



The Complete Worshiper

We do not choose to be only Mary, Martha, or Lazarus.

Mature believers are complete worshipers.

Often we:

- Major in one
- Minor in another
- Ignore the third

But healthy disciples:

- Spend time with Jesus
- Serve and give sacrificially
- Live obedient, restful lives

At Legacy, we expect complete worshipers.

Affection. Service. Giving. Rest.

United not by method of our worship, but by the object of our worship.

