

John 11:47-12:19 – 5 July 2026

“Authenticity”

Introduction

*Chap 11-12a takes place mostly in Bethany Judea between Jan–Apr 32 AD

*So far in chapter 11 Jesus has raised Lazarus from the dead instilling belief that He can conquer anything

*The challenge is really thrown back to the people

*What will they do with these unmistakable miracles

*Will they continue to only lookout for maintaining their current condition or will they become worshippers themselves

*They’re being challenged to authenticity

Today we see 3 areas to challenge ourselves whether we’re truly being authentic

#1 –Are we truly concerned about truth or just self-preservation? (11:47-57)

Read 11:47-48 [The Plot to kill Jesus]

1. Their motive is clear; they're worried about their *own* loss
 - a. They're not concerned if Jesus is Messiah, but whether or not *people believe* He is
2. It's like a church worried that the church down the road is taking over the town, rather than being worried if that other church is teaching truth

Read 11:49-50

1. Caiaphas saw Jesus as leaven or cancer
 - a. Remove it before it spreads
2. This again shows they never considered whether Jesus was telling the truth all along
 - a. We can think our actions are good, but if our starting point is wrong, all our actions are wrong

Read 11:51-52

1. John gives us this commentary that Caiaphas unconsciously & involuntarily prophesied

- a. You've heard: "Even a blind squirrel..."
- b. John Trapp: "Wholesome sugar may be found in a poisoned cane, a precious stone in a toad's head, a flaming torch in a blind man's hand"
- 2. Now there's another Biblical example of Israel's leaders considering an uprising
 - a. Turn to Acts 5:33-40
 - b. If interested in self-preservation, kill them; if interested in truth, let it go & see if God's in it
- 3. This will happen 33 years later in 66 AD; the Jewish War against the Romans begins
 - a. As revolt began the Zealot leader Eleazar ben Simon rose in Jerusalem & John of Gischala rose in Galilee as well as Simon ben Giora
 - b. There were too many flames spreading for the Sanhedrin to put out or kill
- 4. In fact, as war spread, the Romans conquered & dispersed the Jews ***& this was the hand of God***
 - a. Gamaliel's counsel to 'let it go & see if God's in it' is wise whether it turns out easy or hard

- b. Had Caiaphas' presupposition, that Jesus was evil, been correct, then His counsel to remove Him would have been correct (I Cor 5:1-7 – man took dad's wife – Read vs 6)

Read 11:53-54

1. So it's no longer a few Jews of little power that want Jesus dead, but now the powerful ones

Read 11:55-57

1. Jesus isn't hiding in fear, He's intentionally planning to fulfill prophecy to be slain at Passover

#2 –Are we truly worshippers or do we see it as a waste? (12:1-11)

Read 12:1-2 [Mary anoints Jesus]

1. This is also discussed in Matt 26 & Mark 14
2. This is at Simon the Leper's house in Bethany
3. Seems Jesus came 6 days before Passover & this meal was 2 days b4 Passover (Matt & Mark)

4. Likely this was a celebration for Lazarus
 - a. How awesome that Jesus wasn't consumed with His own grief of the pending cross but was still in a posture of giving

Read 12:3

1. Other gospels indicate she started at His head
 - a. As the anointing of the king or priest
2. Anointing feet shows service & pure worship
3. Different than the woman of Galilee (Luk 7) anointing His feet w/ ointment & her tears in love

Read 12:4-6

1. A denarii was the average day's wage; so this ointment costed a year's salary
2. What a contrast between Mary & Judas
 - a. To Judas this was misplaced; it was a *waste*
 - b. To Mary this was sacrificial giving; it was *worship*
3. You're either a giver or a taker
 - a. Judas was a thief always thinking of self

- i. He's willing to lie (the poor)
- b. Mary was willing to give even at great cost
 - i. She's willing to let others think her a fool

Read 12:7-8

- 1. Giving to the poor is endless; there's always another need
- 2. Giving to Jesus is special; she's done what she can in the short time that she can
 - a. There's only a window of time
- 3. You don't complain when someone provides a nice funeral for the dead; can't complain here either

Read 12:9-11

- 1. The chief priests were of the Sadducees that didn't believe in resurrection – believed life ended
 - a. Lazarus' existence was a huge embarrassment
 - b. So they sought to get rid of the evidence
- 2. Why not use the evidence to change their views
 - a. That would be a huge embarrassment to their pride

3. Wouldn't anyone rejoice in life from the dead?
 - a. So instead, they seek to kill Lazarus
 - b. Pride will make you kill even the good that opposes you

#3 –Is our devotion skin-deep or can we persevere through difficulties? (12:12-19)

Read 12:12-13 [The Triumphal Entry]

1. The palms represent victory and peace
2. They're chanting quoting from Psm 118
 - a. You wonder how much of this Messianic Psalm they actually believed
 - b. Turn to Psm 118:21-29 – speaks of Messiah's coming but did they also believe vs 27?

Read 12:14-16

1. Zec 9:9 adds that Messiah is just & lowly having salvation
2. In the moment, you're just doing what's right & needed & you find later it was inspired by God

- a. Have you ever giving someone Biblical advice, then they come to you later & tell you how God use it in their life?
- b. It can become so natural to obey the Lord, that we don't realize that we're being helpful in certain ways

Read 12:17-19

- 1. 3 different reactions here
 - a. The believers witnessed for Jesus (vs 17)
 - b. Inquirers went to meet Jesus (vs 18)
 - c. The haters grew in frustration (vs 19)
- 2. This is exactly what a Christian should expect as they're serving the Lord

Conclusion

Want to analyze your authenticity in serving Christ?

1. **Are we truly concerned about truth or just self-preservation?**
2. **Are we truly worshippers or do we see it as a waste?**
3. **Is our devotion skin-deep or can we persevere through difficulties?**