

## **That You May Have Life In His Name - John 12:1-10**

### **Pastor Matt Dean**

**> What does it mean to have saving faith in Jesus - that we would have life in His name?**

#### **Room at the table:**

- **For those who have seen a miracle (Lazarus)**
- **For those in shame and guilt**
- **Water / wine**
- **Death/ life**

#### **Same invitation**

#### **Same opportunity**

**Only you can choose how best to Respond to Jesus**

#### **(Jn 12:1–8) Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany**

**12** Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. <sup>3</sup> Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” <sup>6</sup> He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

#### **Matthew 26:6–13 (ESV): Jesus Anointed at Bethany**

**6** Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. **8** And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? **9** For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” **10** But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. **11** For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. **12** In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. **13** Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

### **Mark 14:3–9 (ESV): Jesus Anointed at Bethany**

3 And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. 4 There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? 5 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her. 6 But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. 9 And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”

She has done a beautiful thing to me + She has done what she could

- The cross is before him
- Gospel proclamation in the whole world is in his mind

I want us to sit in this story – Lazarus has been raised from the dead. Dead days ago. Now Alive. Martha is serving this meal in the home of a leper to honor Jesus. Judas is plotting his greedy betrayal of Jesus. This home is filled with the scent of a very expensive oil.

Here is Jesus – present among very different people.  
Some are devoted. One deceiving disciple. One miracle of resurrection.

We see in the offering of Mary – a willingness to offer something of great worth unto Jesus. Her love expressed in humility. Her love expressed in an extravagant offering. Before others who did not understand and among some who did not agree.

But Jesus says – she has done a beautiful thing. She has done what she could.

Luke’s gospel tells another story, but in a different place and different people.

### **Luke 7:36–50 (ESV): A Sinful Woman Forgiven**

36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and reclined at table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.” 40 And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.”

41 “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” 43 Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon,

“Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” 50 And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

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Let me pull all of this together for us today — Matthew, Mark, and John tell us what Mary has done is a beautiful expression of love for Jesus, that Mary offered extravagantly from what she had, that she did what she could.

Luke tells us that a broken woman with a troubled sinful past sees Jesus and with weeping and tears wash the feet of Jesus, wiping his feet with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing Jesus. Her sins – which are many, are forgiven.

The expression of knowing forgiveness – is to love greatly.

We are all in need of the grace and mercy of God.

We share the same status – our sins are many.

We face the same decision – will I trust in Jesus?

For those who do trust in Jesus, we share in the same standing – we have peace with God, a righteousness by grace through faith in Christ.

And...

We have one life to offer back to God - one whole-life response and before a watching and broken world, this much – I love you Jesus.

History is rich with men and women who have leveraged their lives out of love for Jesus because they see the greatness of God, they know the depth of their sins and the chain breaking, life changing power of God’s grace, they know the leading of the Holy Spirit and they step up and step into the works God has prepared for them to do.

What am I willing to do? Not to be saved. I am saved.

What am I willing to offer? Not to be loved more. I am loved.

What am I willing to endure? Not to earn favor with God. I am highly favored.

What am I willing to sacrifice? Not to prove something. I know my riches are in Christ.

Church – let me give you courage today.

**(Mk 8:34–38)**

<sup>34</sup> And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Don’t forfeit your soul.

Deny yourself and take up the cross and follow Jesus.

Offer your life to Jesus because of who He is and what He has done.

Say yes to people and places that need the love of Jesus.

**Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) A Living Sacrifice**

**12** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The pattern of this world is centered around man.

The pattern of this world is filled with deception and lies.

God IS good.

His purpose and plans ARE to be trusted.

The gospel of Jesus Christ IS true and trustworthy.

**What does it mean to have life in Jesus name?**

- To see that offering your life back to Him is something that only YOU can do.
- What can you say yes to?
- Someone else cannot choose this for you – ultimately, you have the opportunity to offer back to God, a life of great value.
- Jesus said, “She has done a beautiful thing to me + She has done what she could”

What I’ve learned in saying YES to hard things = knowing Jesus more

