

Digging Deeper: John 11:45–12:11

Series: Hard Knocks

Sermon: “Haters Gonna Hate, It’s Not About You!”

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Day 1: Pray. Read John 11:45–53.

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. Some of the Jewish doubters believed in Jesus after witnessing this miracle, but others went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. How did the chief priest and the Pharisees react to this news, and what did they decide to do with Jesus? As a follower of Christ, are you sometimes doubtful of how Jesus is working through some of your life’s challenges? Who or where do you turn to restore your faith in Christ?

Day 2: Pray. Read John 11:54–57.

Jesus withdrew from the public to a village called Ephraim where he stayed with his disciples. When it was time for the Passover, Jewish followers of Jesus were looking forward to seeing him at the festival. Why did Jesus withdraw? What was the focus of the chief priests and Pharisees during this time of ceremonial cleansing? Are we as religious leaders helping to build bridges in our society, or are our actions destroying the fibers of our democracy? Who are you influencing, and who is judging your actions?

Day 3: Pray. Read John 12:1–3

Six days before the Passover, Jesus returned to the home of Lazarus in Bethany where a dinner was being served in Jesus’ honor. Lazarus and others reclined at the table with Jesus while Martha served them. What did Mary do, and what was the significance of her actions? How and where can you show more humility in your service to others?

Day 4: Pray. Read John 12:4–6

One of the disciples, Judas the Iscariot who later betrayed Jesus, took offense to the amount of money that was spent on that expensive oil that Mary used to anoint Jesus. Judas was a thief and was not really concerned about giving money to the poor. Are we letting the love of money persuade our decisions as people? As a church? As a society?

Day 5: Pray. Read John 12:7–8

Jesus’ response to the very man who was to betray him was to leave Mary alone for it was the intent that Mary save the excess of this perfumed oil for the day of Jesus burial.

Not only was Judas dishonest, but he was also hating on the fact that Jesus was receiving this unusually special treatment from Mary. “It’s not about you” was Jesus’ message to Judas. What is the one thing that Jesus said that we will always have? What are you doing to help people help themselves? In your service to others, are you reflecting the heart of Judas or Mary?

Day 6: Pray. Read John 12:9–11

A large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was at Bethany and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus. How did the chief priests and Pharisees respond to this news? Is someone holding you accountable to reflect the character of Jesus in your life, and are you holding our religious leaders accountable to the same?