

Pastor Jim Jackson, 3/8/26
Days With Jesus, Day 36—The Scent of a Savior
John 12:1-11

People ARRIVE to celebrate Jesus

Six days before the Passover feast, a party was thrown at ‘Simon the leper’s’ house in Bethany to celebrate Jesus resurrecting Lazarus (Matt. 26:6). While the Jews were celebrating deliverance from Egypt, Lazarus was celebrating deliverance from death (Ex. 12:17). *Both celebrations are celebrating the same power because they are celebrating the same God!* When people heard Jesus was in Bethany with Lazarus, they came out to see both men and party with them. *No one has more of a reason to celebrate than Christians!*

Mary SACRIFICES to honor Jesus

With no secure financial storage in ancient times, women would often put their resources, like expensive oil or spices—sometimes representing their entire life savings—in sealed alabaster jars for safekeeping. They would then hide the jars in the house or wear them around their necks. Perhaps by seeing her brother eating with the family, Mary is overcome with appreciation for Jesus. *A believer’s attitude should always be gratitude* (Col. 3:17)! As he reclined at the table with his feet out, Mary broke the jar and poured the oil, which was worth a year’s wage, over him from head to foot (Mark 14:3). Mary sacrificed her financial stability and physical dignity by then using her hair to dry his feet, something a servant wouldn’t be asked to do. *The depth of your commitment is seen in the size of your sacrifice* (Matt. 6:20, 21; Mark 12:41-44)!

Judas OBJECTS to honor himself

Seeing thousands of dollars gone, the disciples criticize Mary and her ‘waste’ of resources that could have been given to the poor. Judas, who was the treasurer and would steal money from the bag, condemned her foolish action but Jesus praises her and promises she will be remembered for preparing his body for burial (Matt. 26:12, 13). *Never be ashamed to be criticized for what God commends!* As people were believing in Jesus because of Lazarus, people plotted to kill them both. Lazarus, who had just come back from the dead, got caught in a murder plot to make him dead again by those who refused to change. Stand with God when those who don’t care to listen, try to tear you down! *Some people would rather change the evidence than change their minds!*