

## How Much Do You Value Jesus?

John 12:1-11 <sup>1</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

### ❖ Recap

- **Two Contrasting Responses to the Glory of God**
  - 1) Many Believed in Him
  - 2) Some Went and told the Pharisees
- The Heart and Soul of Unbelief is the Self Preservation of Self Glory
  - 1) They do not deny the miracle (47)
  - 2) Worried about Losing their status among the people
  - 3) Worried they would lose their status
- Jesus Death Would Be Substitutionary
  - Caiaphas’ prophecy
- Their Unbelief Helps Jesus Fulfill His Purpose for Coming

### ❖ Intro

- There are a few things going on in these 11 verses
- But there is one thing we see that stands out above all else
- And that is the Contrasting Views of the Worth of Jesus...
  - What is Jesus Worth? And we see this played out in these 11 verses...

### ❖ Setting

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- **Notice the time...**
  - This is not long after His raising Lazarus from the grave ( Not sure how long though)
    - Looking back at last week again
    - John 11.55-57 <sup>55</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. <sup>56</sup> They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?” <sup>57</sup> Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.
    - When He comes back He knows that when He begins to show himself, He is going to be arrested
  - Because of what He had done for Lazarus, they were having a dinner in His honor... It was for Him

## ❖ 2 Contrasting Emotions Toward Jesus

### ❖ 1) Acts of Humble Devotion

#### ➤ Before Getting to Mary: Let us look at Lazarus and Martha

- <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

#### ➤ They are throwing a dinner party for Jesus... And Lazarus is there at the table hanging out with Jesus

- Spending some time with him
- Not so sure how He felt about all of it...
- Not so sure if He wouldn't rather be in Paradise...
- No... Just kidding... I believe He was so grateful that Jesus would use Him for such a miracle
- To be used in the name of God that way was awesome
- He saw and experienced things that no one had at that point in history
- And He got to be an object lesson for how little power death can have over those who are
  - The children of God

#### ➤ Martha Served

- Not enough is mentioned today about this wonderful woman
  - She served those around her relentlessly...
  - We have seen her serving before... And here she is at it again...
  - She was a very special lady...
  - Someone we should all look up to and want to be like...
  - She understood the concept Jesus had been teaching...
    - ◆ Because she saw it in Him
- Mark 9:35 <sup>35</sup> And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."
- Matthew 20:26-28. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- **Martha understood this and lived like this....**
  - Many of you here at Hope do this.... And let me commend you...
  - When you cook, or clean around here, you are living out the words of Jesus
    - ◆ Know this when you do it...
  - **When you teach children, or watch them or spend time with them here...**
    - ◆ You are living out the words of Jesus
      - Look after mark 9.35
      - Mark 9:36-37 <sup>36</sup> And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."
  - **Oh How thankful I am for all of you that serve here.... Because without you, we could not go on...**
    - ◆ And we need more people to step in and help.. because there is so much to do...
    - ◆ So do not lose motivation... do not grow weary in you doing of good things...
  - **I am not saying you will not grow weary and wants others to help out... but be careful...**
    - ◆ I want you to know it is a natural feeling... even Martha had this feeling...
      - ◆ Luke 10:40-42 <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about

many things, <sup>42</sup> but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

- **So serve and do not be anxious about it...**
  - ◆ And make sure you have some time like Mary had.... At the feet of Jesus...
    - Cause that is the good portion... and it makes it so you can serve

➤ **Why so thankful?**

- Jesus had come into their life... Jesus had done many amazing things for them...
- Most of all He had given Himself to them
- Obviously they were thankful to have their brother that had died, back.
- But I think it was so much more than that.
- **They could see how valuable Jesus is.**
  - They understood the value of knowing someone who could remove your sins
  - Who could grant you eternal life
  - Who came down out of heaven to humble himself as a man
  - They understood what it meant to know Jesus:
  - And it was summed up in two things Jesus told Martha when He raised Lazarus
    - ◆ 1) John 11:25-27 <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”
    - ◆ 2) John 11:40 <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

➤ **They saw Jesus as He is:**

- They saw His glory and power and compassion and mercy and love

➤ **My Heart:**

- Last week I was reading a book... and it was teaching me some things.
- And one of the things I was learning again was the importance of a vibrant devotional life
- When we struggle with sin, and service to God...
- The first thing we need to look at is our devotion life
- **I would say almost 100% of the time that we are being rebellious toward Christ it is because**
  - Our devotional life is not vibrant
  - I do not mean you just read a chapter a day.
  - But you really get in the Word and pray....
  - And you grow in your love toward Christ
- **Personally I have been feeling like mine:**
  - Needed some resuscitation... Needed to be awakened from its sleep.
  - I want to love Jesus more than anything else in my life.
  - When we love Jesus that much, that other stuff that gets in the way has no place
  - So I was praying for God to help me with that....
  - I said to Him... Please help me to love you....
    - ◆ And in saying this I understand that love is not some abstract concept
    - ◆ There is substance behind it... It is not just a word we can use loosely although we do
    - ◆ It is not just floating around without meaning...
  - So as I asked him to help me love Him, I understood that that meant truly knowing Him
    - ◆ To be able to see who He is
    - ◆ To know Him better so that I might see the things about Him
    - ◆ That make Him the most precious treasure in all of existence...

◆ I wanted to be like the guy Jesus talked about:

➤ Matthew 13:44 <sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

■ So I asked for that... and this is where God led me

● To this story about how this woman's love came bursting out in sacrificial humility...

➤ **Mary**

■ <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.

■ There are two things we could focus on here....

- One is how sacrificial she was in giving
- Two is her love and humility toward Jesus

◆ Paul served Jesus like this

➤ Acts 20:19 <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

■ I want to focus on her love and humility

■ But we will also see her sacrifice

➤ **First: What she gave**

■ **And we are to be just as Sacrificial**

- No one is exempt here....
- you **allow God** to inform you as to how you are to give.

■ **An alibaster vial of very costly perfume...come to find out it was worth 300 denarii**

- This was a **year's wages** for a common laborer or soldier.
  - ◆ We can apply it **to our own yearly wages**. In a sense, if it was a yearly wage for someone then, then we can apply that to our own yearly wage.
  - ◆ If it was a doctor it would be a gift of 100,000 or more.
  - ◆ To a teacher it may be about 35,000 dollars.
  - ◆ She gave up the equivalent of a **year's worth of work**.
    - What an amazing gift of sacrifice.
    - She did this with **no desire** for reward.

➤ **She understood a few things:**

■ 1) It was not her possession, it was given to her by God.

- We do not know if it was hers only... or if the family go together and bought it
- Or if it was a family possession that had been passed down

■ 2) Jesus is worth it

➤ **Look at her love and humility**

■ I do not even know how to describe this scene

- Jesus is sitting there... and to her, he is the only one there...
- And she is about to embarrass herself by earthly standards... but she doesn't care or know

■ **She goes over to Him and the feelings she has for Him inside come bursting forth on the outside**

- So much so, that she can not even do enough in her own mind

■ **So there she is pouring this perfume over his dirty feet.**

- The dirtiest part of a person in those days were their feet
- They walked in sandals in dirt and dust all day long

■ **And here she is over his feet pouring this perfume over them**

- And wiping it with her hair.

■ **The scriptures teach that a woman's hair is her glory**

- It is the most glorious thing about the woman's outward appearance
- And I know how much time a woman can spend on her hair...
- It can make or break how they look when they go out of the house...
- **Mary takes the most beautiful thing on her body and she uses it to wipe the dirtiest thing on Jesus**
  - His feet.
- **And You begin to see how much He is worth to her...**
  - She is able to see His true worth as much as is humanly possible...
  - She is likely weeping over His feet and kissing his feet
  - Her face is right there looking at the feet of Jesus...
- **And then you see it...**
  - She sees His feet... His dirty feet...
  - As glorious.... She sees how special He is
  - She sees His worth....
  - **She knows what an honor it is to having the LIVING GOD come down for a short time**
    - ◆ And be there where she is
    - ◆ And raise her brother from the grave
    - ◆ And offer her forgiveness for her many sins
    - ◆ And show her his glory
  - **And the lowliest part of Jesus in her eyes is Magnificent and beautiful**
    - ◆ And it is worth a very expensive gift
    - ◆ It is worth her tears
    - ◆ Her time
    - ◆ Her kisses
    - ◆ It is worth her getting her hair dirty with the dirt from his feet
  - **Jesus is worth it to her**

## ❖ 2) Judas' Act of Selfish Ambition

- <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.
- **Mary acted one way... Judas acted another...**
  - He acted the same way as the leaders...
- **Compare with Pharisees and their unbelief and Self Preservation of Self Glory**
  - They could not believe because believing would destroy their self glory and they needed to preserve that
    - John 11:48 <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."
    - Here is more proof : John 12:42-43 <sup>42</sup> Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.
- **There can be no pride when coming before God...**

## ❖ Jesus Rebuking and Comforting Response

- <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."

- **Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial**
  - Keep it.... Keep what?
    - Not the perfume... it is gone
    - But keep this love... this sense of how worthy Jesus is of her adoration...
    - He wants her to keep that sense of awe
    - He doesn't want Judas' words to extinguish this in her heart

- **The Day of my Burial**
  - Jesus is again pointing toward His Death....
  - And I think Mary finally understands it...
    - She is not like Peter telling Jesus He can not go and die
    - Instead she is anointing him for it...
  - **Jesus is wanting everyone to know that He has come to die for them...**
    - And if He doesn't die...
    - Then Lazarus being raised is nothing... it is just a fluke...
    - Jesus must go on with His plan

#### ❖ **More Belief and More Unbelief**

- <sup>9</sup>When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup>So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup>because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

- expound

#### ❖ **We should feel the same devotion to Christ**

- **Ephesians 2:1-5** “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

- **Do we?**

- I must confess as I look at Mary's reaction to Jesus
  - That I do not even come close.
  - I am not preaching this thinking I am like Mary... I have become very aware that I am not
- So let us all ask the question:
  - Do we see Jesus as worth it?
- Mary did because He had taught her with His words
  - Has he not done the same for us?
- She did because she saw His glory in the raising of her brother from the grave
  - Has He not promised to do the same for us
- She saw Him as worth it because He had forgiven her of her sins
  - Has he not offered this to all of us here today

- So... how will we respond...

- By being embarrassed to lift our voices to God in praise?
- By not spending time in the Word of God and in prayer....

#### ❖ **How will we respond?**