

Sunday, June 30, 2024

Title: “Waste or Worship? Devoting to Jesus”

Text: John 12:1–11

Series: *The Gospel of John*

#1. Loving Jesus more than your social safety (John 11:55–57; 12:9–11)

#2. Loving Jesus more than your financial security (John 12:1–3)

#3. Loving Jesus more than pressing social concerns (John 12:4–5)

#4. Loving Jesus more than pretending to love Jesus (John 12:6–8)

**Setting – Jewish Passover, Many Looking for Jesus,
JRL have reports out to have Jesus arrested (11:55–57)**

⁵⁵ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover. ⁵⁶ They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, “What do you think? Isn’t he coming to the festival at all?” ⁵⁷ But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.

**Arrival of Jesus – Jesus returns to Bethany,
He is celebrated by Martha, Lazarus and Mary (12:1–3)**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.² Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint^[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

MARY’S ESTIMATION OF JESUS’ WORTH

A. It was an expensive / extravagant act of devotion

B. It was a personally humbling act of devotion

JUDAS'S ESTIMATION OF JESUS' WORTH

Objection of Judas – Judas prefers the poor over Jesus (at least he says, in reality he is a thief) (12:4–6)

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.^[b]” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

A. Judas’s charge is that this is an ungodly waste!

B. Judas’s charge was motivated by selfishness.

JESUS' ESTIMATION OF JESUS' WORTH

Jesus Rebukes Judas – Jesus teaches HIS priority of value and time (12:7–8)

⁷ “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

1) This anointing would serve for Jesus’ burial (v. 7).

2) This anointing properly values / prioritizes Jesus (v. 8).

Back scenes of the Setting – A crowd comes to see Jesus and Lazarus, the JRL now add Lazarus to their murder list (12:9–11)

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.