

# The Heart of Worship

John 12: 1 – 11

31 January 2021 A.M.

Series: Jesus' Last Week

# John 12: 1 - 3

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining *at the table* with Him. <sup>3</sup> Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

# The Heart of Worship seen in a family at Bethany

- Matthew and Mark indicate this celebration meal was held at a former lepers house named Simon.
  - He must have been healed by Jesus.
  - Jesus was being shown gratitude for Lazarus' resurrection, and Simon's healing.
- Martha shows her heart of worship in service.
  - Considering an earlier account in Luke 10: 38 – 42.
- Mary shows her devotion and emotion in worship.
  - Very costly perfume imported from North India
  - Poured on His head, body and feet.
  - Letting down her hair, not caring about the shame.

# John 12: 4 - 8

<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup> “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor *people*?” <sup>6</sup> Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. <sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. <sup>8</sup> “For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.”

# A Contrast to the Heart of Worship seen close by

- Stunned silence was suddenly broken by a voice of protest and criticism.
  - Other disciples join Judas in “righteous indignation.”
  - John shows Judas as ring leader with ulterior motives.
  - Judas was trusted as treasurer, but stole from the treasury.
- Jesus sharply rebukes Judas and applies Mary’s act.
  - Leave her alone, she has done a good deed (Mark 14)
  - Mary’s act is applied to Jesus’ coming burial.
  - Matthew and Mark indicate that this was the final straw for Judas who immediately proceeds to betray Him.

# John 12: 9 - 11

<sup>9</sup> The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

# A Second Contrast to the Heart of Worship seen in the Superficial

- A large crowd, not including religious leaders heard of Jesus' arrival.
  - They were after more thrill seeking experiences.
  - Lazarus was the new star of the show.
- Chief priests futile plans continue.
  - Now Lazarus was a marked man to die.
  - Because of Lazarus some were coming to Christ.

# Conclusion

- Is your worship of Jesus more like Simon the Leper, Lazarus, Martha or Mary?
- What would it look like for you to worship like Mary?
- How should we take warning about criticizing another's heart of worship?
- In the end no one is neutral regarding Jesus. Are you with Him or against Him - (Luke 11: 23)