

4. READ Luke 21:1-4. Do you consider this to be an example for Christians today? Why or why not?

5. Do you consider Mary of Bethany's sacrificial love-gift to be an example for Christians today? Why or why not?

6. Mary's loving devotion is obvious. How would you describe the link between one's belief in Jesus and behavior toward Jesus?

7. RE-READ John 12:1-11.

In obedience to God, what is one thing you will stop doing?

In obedience to God, what is one thing you will start doing?

Wasteful Worship and Sacrificial Love

John 12:1-11

November 13, 2016

Matthew, Mark, and John all record an anointing of Jesus during the last week of His earthly ministry. (NOTE: Luke 7:36-50 is a similar but separate occasion with different lessons.)

There are many similarities in the retelling of the incident, but also significant differences. How do we account for the differences?

	Matt. 26:6-13	Mark 14:3-9	John 12:1-8
Whose house?	Simon the Leper	Simon the Leper	Not named
Which woman?	Not named	Not named	Mary
Qty. of perfume?	No comment	No comment	12 ounces
Anointed what?	Jesus' head	Jesus' head	Jesus' feet
Afterwards?	No comment	No comment	Dries w.her hair

John adds details that the others leave out directing our attention to the ultimate worth of Jesus' death and Mary's sacrificial love.

1. John mentions that Lazarus, Mary and Martha are all present at the dinner with Jesus and his disciples in Simon's house.

***Jesus is completely at **ease**, taking time the week before His death to eat and hang out with friends.

2. John tells the amount of perfume (12 oz). To use it all at once was considered excessive, an expensive "waste" (Matt. 26:8).

***We are to count the cost **before** following Jesus, but never again afterwards.

3. John tells us that Mary anointed "the feet of Jesus" showing her own unworthiness and self-forgetfulness by wiping them.

***Focusing on Jesus frees me to **humbly** serve Him forgetting myself in doing so.

4. John says that the “*fragrance filled the house*” highlighting the far-reaching effects of her devotion.

***Extravagant love of Jesus **lingers** in the memory long after the occasion is over.

5. John singled out Judas Iscariot, who soon would betray Jesus, as “*a thief*” motivated by what he could get (Mark 14:11).

***Nothing **obliterates** the true worship of Jesus Christ more than wondering, “What do I get out of it?”

6. Jesus said Mary was meant to “*keep it for the day of my burial*” thus linking her sacrificial love-gift with His impending death.

***Whatever you keep for yourself is **lost** forever. But whatever you give to Jesus is **saved** forever (Mark 8:35).

7. John reports that the chief priests decided “*to kill Lazarus*” as the only way to silence his testimony.

***What does it take to keep you from talking about Jesus?

“If Jesus Christ is God and died for me,
then no sacrifice can be too great for me
to make for Him.”

Charles Thomas (C.T). Studd, (1860 - 1931) missionary to China, India, Africa

Life Group Homework

What observation, insight, or principle did you find eye-opening, helpful, or troubling from this week’s sermon?

1. What question would you like to ask Lazarus if you got to sit across the table from him at a dinner?

2. READ 2 Samuel 24:21-25 (The rest of the chapter gives the background.)

In v24, what principle did David state about offering sacrifices to the Lord and how might this apply today?

3. READ Luke 14:25-33. Is this a scare tactic of Jesus to find out who in the crowd following Him is serious, or does He really expect this kind of radical commitment from all His disciples?

What effect does “counting the cost” before deciding to follow Jesus have on all subsequent decisions?