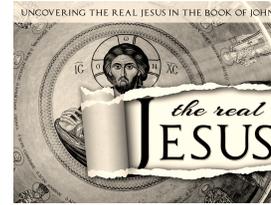


Community Group Questions:

1. Name some things that we would be willing to spend a year's income on?
2. When we hear the word humility in context to following Jesus, what kind of behaviors and actions do you suppose would be considered "humble" to our way of thinking when following Jesus?
3. Mary risked open shame for letting her hair down in public. Where might we take a risk in our following of Christ?
4. What do we trade off, what behaviors do we hold onto, where does Jesus only getting a piece of us? The clear application is confession, first to God for cleansing, and secondly to others for accountability. What do we need to confess to Jesus?



Mary's Devotion; an Example Worth Following **John 12:1-11**

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead.² A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him.³ Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." ⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.⁷ Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial." ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

⁹ When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, ¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

The Setting: A banquet is being held in honor of Jesus' miracle of bringing Lazarus back to life. Matthew's Gospel tells us that they were in the home of Simon the Leper. He, too, was mostly likely healed by Jesus at some other point. In those days it was normal to use perfumed ointment as a way to cover otherwise smelly bodies since showers and baths were not readily available. Mary, however, used a most expensive ointment, a "spikenard" from the mountains of India. Judas Iscariot lamented her waste by saying its cost was more than 300 denari, a figure that is more than a year's wages for a laborer in their day.

1st Amazing thing- Mary's generous gift.

She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Mark 14:3

The house was filled with the fragrance. John 12:3

Why Matthew records Jesus declaration:

Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." Matthew 26:13

2nd Amazing thing- Mary also anoints Jesus feet.

she anointed Jesus' feet with it, vs. 3

3rd Amazing thing is Mary wipes the ointment with her hair.

wiping his feet with her hair. vs. 3

I. Following Christ means letting go of ourselves.

1. When Mary breaks the vial, she is saying?

"I'm going to follow You, no matter what the cost."

2. When Mary goes for Jesus feet, she is saying,

"There is nothing I won't do for Jesus"

3. When Mary let's her hair down, she is saying,

"Not only am I going to give you everything I have, but I'm going to give you everything I am."

Judas Iscariot, on the other hand, says;

"That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. John 12:5,6

John is deliberately making a contrast here. He's saying when you come to Jesus there are only two kinds of people; those that sell out Jesus or those who are sold out to Jesus.

II. Following Christ means we factor His death for us

Every time you see Mary in the gospels, she's at Jesus' feet, but there's a progression.

Luke 10- She's at Jesus feet listening, while her sister is angry at her for not helping serve.

John 11- She falls at Jesus feet when Jesus arrives after Lazarus' death. Mary shows her submission.

John 12- She anoints Jesus feet with her hair.

Mary understands the only way Jesus could have raised Lazarus was at the cost of His own life. Mary realized now by giving Lazarus life He was going to have to lose His.

Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. ⁴⁶ But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

John 11:45,46

Why Jesus says of Mary: She did this in preparation for my burial. John 12:7