



Extravagant Worship | John 12:1-11

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September 9, 2018

From John 12:1-11, we will learn from one woman's example (and, by way of contrast) the joy of worshipping Jesus Christ as our greatest treasure and sacrificing our greatest earthly treasures for Him.

Review: The purpose of John's gospel IS evangelistic. He said so in John 20:31. John recorded a series of signs performed by Jesus – we could also call them miracles – so that his readers would see them and would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing they would have life in His name.

Mary had come to pour out what may well have been her greatest and costliest earthly treasure to worship the One who was now her all-surpassing treasure.

1. Mary's worship was deliberate.
2. Mary's worship was extremely humble.

3. Mary's worship was God-centered.

4. Mary's worship was complete and costly.

The contrast between Mary and the religious leaders who treasured their own lives, and their power and prestige, as being more valuable than anyone or anything else.

Questions to Consider

1. What's the setting in John 12? When is this happening? Why is the timing important? What details distinguish this anointing of Jesus from the one recorded in Luke 7?
2. How are you deliberate about worshipping Jesus on days other than Sunday? In what ways could you be more deliberate?
3. In what ways do we see humility in Mary's anointing of Jesus? Are there ever times when your own worship of Jesus is restrained by concerns about what others might think?
4. What are some practical illustrations to highlight the difference between worship that is God-centered and that which is man-centered? Are there man-centered elements that might creep into our own worship of Jesus?
5. What does it mean that Mary's worship was complete and costly? What factors might hinder us from sacrificial giving and serving in our own worship?
6. There's an idiom that says, "The good is the enemy of the best." Are there times when you settle for what seems good and pragmatic in worship and service, and not for what is best? What can you do this week to move toward greater generosity and sacrifice for Christ?