

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Dec 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #13: Extravagant Love

INTRODUCTION

If you had a year's wages to spend *extravagantly* on Jesus (in person) what would you do?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read John 11:54-57 through 12:1-11

Note: More than a week has passed since Lazarus' experience to this dinner in the home of Simon the leper. One division of the chief priests, the Sadducees, did not believe in resurrection of the dead (Mk 12:18) so Lazarus threatened their beliefs and theology. The other chief priests (Pharisees) could lose their positions of influence if they couldn't keep civil peace for Rome, which Jesus threatened. The same process of division at work among Jesus' friends was also taking place among the common people. Some were not invited guests to the feast, but curious to meet the man that was raised from the dead. Lazarus was obviously not hiding in fear of the religious leaders.

1. Even though this was a celebration and "thank you" dinner for Jesus, why was it a brave thing to host and attend this party? Jn 11:54, 57
2. The contrast between Judas and Mary is striking. What are some of their differences?
3. What was Mary trying to accomplish by anointing Jesus this way?

Note: Oil was normally poured on the head. Servants normally attended the feet because the open sandals allowed nasty grime to accumulate. Respectable women didn't unbind their hair in public. Criminal's bodies were normally not anointed with oil for burial. Oil this valuable could have been part of Mary's dowry. By giving it away she depleted her potential of gaining a husband.

4. What difference did it make that the perfume was costly?
5. Given the value of the perfume, how would you have reacted if you had watched Mary?
6. How does Jesus interpret Mary's action?
7. Do you tend to be more like Mary, spiritually sensitive and extravagant in your love for Jesus or like Judas and the other disciples? Why?
8. How are you "evidence" like Lazarus of Christ's claims?
9. Many people such as Jews and Muslims suffer great loss by accepting Christ. Perhaps it too easy for the average American to know Christ? What would make it too costly for you to acknowledge Him? vv. 23-26
10. What are some of the exchanges that take place today like those of Mary & Judas?

APPLICATION

How could others tell you have been brought to spiritual life? Rom 8:18 Do you carry the scent of Mary's perfume in your hair?

Mary has been memorialized in her act of love (Mark 14:9). Do you want to be remembered? Then do not build monuments, build *love*. Do not be stingy with your possessions, share them. Share yourself. Give yourself away.

Memorial to a Woman's Love, Dr. James Boice