



Sermon Title: "Overt Love, Covert Greed"

Scripture: John 12:1-11

Pastor Chris Fritz

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Introduction

Luke 14:26; Matthew 22:37; 1 Corinthians 16:22; 1 John 5:20-21 -

John 12:1-11 -

I. Beautiful, Overt, Lavish Love for Christ

A. The timing of this dinner.

Note: We are able to give such a small portion back to God of what He actually deserves!

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12)

Romans 12:1-2 - "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

B. The treasure that Mary offers to honor Jesus.

"...expensive ointment..."

"...anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair..."

"...house was filled with the fragrance..."

John 12:42-43 -

II. Ugly, Covert, Idolatrous Lust for Cash

A. Judas despised Mary and her expression of love to Jesus.

B. Judas, sadly, shows us the deceptive and self-destroying nature of idolatry.

Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10 -

C. Jesus will not tolerate Judas' wickedness; He quickly silences him.

- 1) Judas should be silent and not criticize Mary because she recognizes what an incredible blessing it is to have Christ with them!
- 2) Judas should be silent and not criticize Mary because there will be ample opportunity to serve and care for the poor.
- 3) Judas should be silent and not criticize Mary because Jesus wants Mary to anoint His body before His death, and Jesus wants Mary to go on treasuring Him, believing in Him, trusting Him, and adoring Him even when things look hopeless.

III. So what does all this have to do with us?

- 1) We need to think long and hard about Mary's love and the example that she has set. (John 14:15)
- 2) Don't cave to societal, familial, or cultural pressure to hide or conceal your love for Jesus.
- 3) If you are a follower of Christ, if you love Christ, be ready, be prepared to hear people (like Judas) question you and mock you. (1 Peter 3:15-16; Matthew 5:11-12)
- 4) Watch your heart. Today are you growing more like Mary or more like Judas? (Proverbs 4:23)

“And He is the Head of the Body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.” (Colossians 1:18)

Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application...

1. What do you think was the purpose of this dinner?
2. What is so beautiful about what Mary does in anointing and wiping the feet of Jesus?
3. What is so sad and tragic about what Judas does/says?
4. What do the actions of Mary and the actions of Judas reveal about their hearts?
5. What does Jesus say about Mary and her actions? What do her actions point to and indicate?
6. Is Jesus suggesting in verse 8 that we should not care for or about the poor?
7. How can you cultivate a love, honor, and appreciation for Christ similar to Mary's?