

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of October 17, 2021

John 12:1-11

Sermon Series: *Death & Life*

Greetings Shepherds,

This week's focus is different. There is some Bible study and application. There is also a suggestion that we follow Mary's example of worshiping and adoring Jesus.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

In our passage for this week, we see another passionate response to Jesus from Mary of Bethany. Our focus this week will be on our response.

Read John 12:1-8. (This takes place the day before Jesus 'triumphal entry' to Jerusalem.)

What was the occasion in this passage? Who was present? How was it being celebrated?

Jesus was the guest of honor at a meal. Lazarus, Martha, and Mary and many others were present.

What do we learn about Mary from other passages?

- Luke 10:38-42 She saw at Jesus' feet, listening intently.
- John 11:32 She fell at Jesus' feet in great respect, love, and trust in Him.

The focus in this passage is on Mary and her response to Jesus. Describe what she does.

While at the meal, Mary anointed Jesus' feet with her hair. (According to the other gospels, also his head with pure nard.)

For most of us, it is difficult to slow down and reflect, to meditate on, and treasure the magnificent Jesus. What had Mary and others seen that would prompt such a passionate love for Jesus? Reflect through the first eleven chapters and record some significant things about Jesus that beckon us to adore and worship Him?

This is meant to be a time of reflection and review of who Jesus is and what He has done.

- For example, Jesus invited people to know Him ("Come and see"). He changed water into wine, taught the truth, healed, raised people from the dead, etc.
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How would you describe Mary's relationship and response to Jesus?

Mary worshiped and adored Jesus, trusted Him, listened intently, and loved Him with great passion and expression.

How might you respond if you were invited to a supper with Jesus today?

I hope that I would respond as Mary did – with worship and adoration.

What was the response of Judas? Why? How is this directly opposite of Mary?

He was frustrated that he didn't get access to the money through selling the pure nard. Instead of worship of Jesus, he was caught up in greed and self-focused desire.

Read John 12:9-11. What was the response of the large crowd? Why?

The crowd came to see Jesus and Lazarus. We don't know if they wanted to listen to Jesus or follow Him. The wording could mean that they wanted to see the spectacle of a man raised from the dead.

What was the response of the chief priests (religious authorities)? Why?

They plotted to kill both Jesus and Lazarus. Lazarus because he was the evidence that Jesus raised someone from the dead. They wanted to eliminate Jesus because people were going to Him instead of themselves. (How dark is that – right?)

LET'S ADORE HIM TOGETHER

Some have described Mary's response as 'adoring Jesus.' What calls you to adore Him? How does that happen today since we don't have Jesus physically present?

Expressions of adoration are rarely seen in our culture. This question could be difficult for people to answer. But there are many ways to express deep love for someone. Consider how you would do this for a close relative, child, spouse, etc.

- Physical: Hugs, kisses, hand holding,
- Words of affection
- Acts of service
- Humble posture

Can we adore Him together right now?

This is something that you should plan ahead and **INFORM YOUR GROUP** about the plans. Here are some ideas:

- Host a foot washing. (You'll need pails of shallow water, towels). During the foot washing, both people can share why they love Jesus/God and what they love about Him.
- Host a time of musical worship. If you don't have someone to ask to lead, you can find a plethora of worship music with lyrics online (For example, on Youtube). Send the choices and lyrics out ahead of time.
- Host a time of Prayer of Adoration. Ask people to come prepared to adore Jesus in prayer. Perhaps have some quiet instrumental music, candles, etc. Again, please tell people ahead that this is the plan.

Great are you Lord! We pour out our praise!