



## Sermon Series: John - The Word of Life - Part 38

**Message:** "Honoring Jesus"

**Text:** John 12:1-8

**Date:** 09/18/2022

- ★ John's purpose for writing was to connect people to Jesus! (John 20:30-31)
- ★ John was writing to Jewish Christians being kicked out of their synagogues (John 9:22)

→ Today's passage emphasizes **Mary** (of the town called Bethany)

→ This passage is also paralleled in Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:1-11

### John 12:1

- It's almost time for the Jewish Passover Festival
  - Jesus entered Bethany 6 days prior to the Festival
  - The dinner in honor of Jesus took place 2 days before the Festival (Mark 14:1)

### John 12:2-8

- (v3) "pure nard, an expensive perfume" = rare spikenard from northern India
- (v3) "wiped his feet with her hair" = *NOT* an appropriate thing for a Jewish woman to do
- (v3) "the house was filled with the fragrance" = this was a beautiful gift of fragrance that would have lasted days (including during the crucifixion)
- (v4) "year's wages" = 300 denarius (about \$40,000 today)
- (v4) At this point, Judas was well respected. Only Jesus knew he was a thief.
- (4-5) Judas objected and so did the other disciples (Mark 14:4-5)
- (v7-8) Jesus rebuked them! He saw her act as "beautiful" (Matthew 26:10; Mark 14:6)
- (v7) Mary prepared Jesus for death *early!* (Mark 14:7-8)
- (v3-8) Mary's act of anointing Jesus was her way of acknowledging that Jesus is the Messiah, the true King of kings and Savior of the world. Her act mirrored the anointing of the Old Testament kings.
- (v1-8) Mary's actions were the *fruit* (and selfless expressions) of her *faith* in Jesus

### Looking back to Luke 10:38-42 - Mary first becomes a disciple of Jesus

→ When it comes to honoring Jesus, what matters is not how expensive our act is, but our heart (the *why*) behind it.

→ **How can we honor Jesus *personally*? How can we honor Jesus as a *Church family*?**

## - Going Deeper -

For individual or small group study

1. **READ Luke 10:38-42.** In what ways did Mary go against the grain of her culture? [For a reminder, check out the sermon manuscript, pages 6-7, downloadable on our church website]
2. **READ Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:1-11.** Yet again, Mary let go of the normal social rules and behavioral expectations she grew up with so that she could perform a humble act of true worship. In what ways might we go against the grain of our American and/or Christian culture in order to properly worship Jesus?
3. In Mark 14:8 Jesus says, “She did what she could.” What can we learn from Mary’s sacrificial act of worship in John 12:3?
4. In Mark 14:5 we learn that the disciples *rebuked* [stern verbal warning] Mary harshly. Why do you think they acted like this toward her? How do you think they felt when Jesus said, “Leave her alone”? What can we learn about ourselves from the attitudes of Judas and the disciples?
5. **READ Mark 12:41-44.** How are the actions of Mary and the poor widow similar? What can we learn from their faith?

### Recommended Resources

- *NIV Faithlife Illustrated Study Bible*, christianbook.com, <https://bit.ly/3kxieXw>
- “Overview: John 1-12” by Bible Project, search on YouTube