

The Worship Jesus Loves

Mark 14:3-9



The Timing

- Matthew 26 & Mark 14
 - Between the Olivet Discourse & betrayal of Judas
 - Tuesday of the Passion Week
- John 12
 - Likely chronological
 - Between Jesus' arrival in Bethany & the Triumphal Entry
 - Saturday PM

I. An Example of the Worship Jesus Loves (3)

A. The Setting of the Worship

– In Bethany

Temple Mount



Mount of Olives

Bethany



Jerusalem area aerial from southeast close-up

I. An Example of the Worship Jesus Loves (3)

A. The Setting of the Worship

- In Bethany
- At the home of Simon the Leper
- A banquet (Jn. 12:2)
- The guests: Jesus and the Twelve
- The hosts:
 - Simon the Leper
 - Jn. 12:2 – Martha was serving.
 - Jn. 12:2 – Lazarus was one of those reclining *at the table* with Him.

“Reclining at table...”



I. An Example of the Worship Jesus Loves (3)

A. The Setting of the Worship

B. The Form of the Worship

- An expensive vial made of alabaster
- An expensive perfume made from nard
 - A fragrant ointment from a plant in the Himalayan Mountains between India and Tibet

C. The Display of Worship

- Jn. 12:3 – [she] wiped His feet with her hair.
- Luke 7:36-50 records a similar incident earlier.

What Kind of Worship Does Christ Love?

1. Extravagant worship!
2. Humble worship!
3. Unashamed worship!

II. Typical Responses to the Worship Jesus Loves (4-5)

- Jn. 12:4 – Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, "Why was this perfume not sold?"
- Jn. 13:29 - Some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor.
- Jn. 12:6 – Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

II. Typical Responses to the Worship Jesus Loves (4-5)

A. The True Disciples of Jesus

B. The False Disciples of Jesus (represented by Judas)

III. Jesus' Explanation of the Worship He Loves (6-9)

A. Worship itself is a good work (6-7).

1. As long as we live in a fallen world, poverty cannot be fully eliminated.
2. Believers should be concerned about the poor and needy among them and should do good to them — especially other believers.
3. There is a priority higher than helping our fellow man—the worship of Jesus.

III. Jesus' Explanation of the Worship He Loves (6-9)

B. Worship must be built on right theology (8).

- Mary understood because Jesus had often predicted His death.
 - Mt. 9:22; 16:21; Mk. 8:31-32; 9:12; 10:32-34; Jn. 6:52-56; 7:33; 8:21-23; 10:11, 15
- Even Jesus' enemies knew of his predictions (Mt. 27:63).
- Mary was often sitting at His feet listening to His Word (Lk. 10:39).

C. Genuine worship is something Jesus always values in His disciples (9).

Lessons...

1. Worshipping Jesus from the heart is your highest priority.
 - Michael Barrett: "There is no effective service until there is acceptable worship."

Lessons...

2. The worship Jesus loves is a focused worship.
 - a. Listening to Christ's Word and learning from him
 - Lk. 10:39 - [Martha] had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.
 - b. Contemplating and focusing on his death for us
 - The focus of Mary's worship that Saturday night

Mary's worship was admirable because...

- It came from a redeemed sinner.
- It was motivated by genuine love for Christ.
- It was done solely for Christ's glory.
- It was informed by a rich theology of the cross.
- It was what she could do.
- It was extravagant, humble, and unashamed.