

Wrap up:

Where does common sense (or wisdom) fit in with extravagant devotion to Christ?

A wasted life...Judas ...a life spent on self...

A devoted life...Mary...A life devoted to Jesus Christ...

In summary of Mary's sacrificial love for Christ:

- *Her worship is spontaneous, and not commanded.*
- *Mary's worship is selfless, sacrificial, and even extravagant.*
- *Mary worshipped her Lord extravagantly, by giving something that she already had to give.*
- *Mary's worship is not something she does in a way which attracts attention to herself, but something privately done at our Lord's feet.*
- *Sadly, Mary's worship is criticized and even opposed by those who know and love the Savior (not Judas, but the other disciples).*

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: A Devoted Life

Topic: Sacrificial love



The circumstances:

- Is Saturday, the day before the Triumphal Entry.
- Is in the house of Simon the leper.
- Is thought he had been healed or people would not be around him.
- Is thought Christ healed him at some point earlier since there was no cure for leprosy.
- There were at least 17 people present for this dinner party.

An extravagant action:

John 12:1-3 *Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

Matthew 26:6-13:

- Verses 6-7: Jesus is anointed with perfume.
- Verses 8-9: The disciple's response.
- Verses 10-13: Christ's rebuke.

Contrast two players at this dinner:

This story illustrates Jesus' words in Mark 8:35-36:

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"

Jesus repeats this idea (John 12:25), *"He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal."*

- Mary denied herself and “hated her life” for Jesus’ sake by her extravagant act of devotion to Him, and she gained that which would not be taken from her.
- Judas greedily wished that he could have pocketed some of Mary’s gift. In a few days, he would sell Jesus for a paltry sum. But he forfeited his soul

Point:

A life spent in selfless devotion to Jesus _____ wasted, but a life spent on self _____.

A Devoted Life

Our title character, Mary:

Mary appears center stage three times in the Gospel record. Every time she shows up, she is doing the same thing: she is found at the feet of Jesus. The first time she appears is at her own home. Martha is working, preparing a meal for Jesus and the others and Mary is sitting at His feet listening to Him teach, **Luke 10:38-42**. The next time we meet her is at the tomb of Lazarus. He had died 4 days earlier and Jesus has arrived at the tomb. Mary runs to Jesus and bows at His feet. **John 11:28-32**. The last time we see her is here, in our text. She offers her worship to Him because of what He means to her. **John 12:1-12; Mark 14:1-9; Matt. 26:6-13**.

The cost of selfless devotion:

Mary’s anointing Jesus with this perfume was costly in at least three ways:

- 1) Selfless devotion might cost _____ ;
- 2) Selfless devotion might cost _____ ;
- 3) Selfless devotion might cost some _____ ;
- 4) Selfless devotion results in the _____ of Christ to surround your life.

What does the fragrance of Christ smell like? _____

- Does your home smell like that?
- Do others sense from the fragrance of your life that you spend much time at Christ’s feet, worshiping Him in selfless devotion?
- Do your relationships at church smell like the fragrance of Christ?

Observation:

There’s no doctrine in this verse about Mary. This is simply an illustration of somebody’s love for Jesus to act as a catalyst for our love.

“She pours the fragrant perfume, her most costly possession, over His head, as though she were anointing Him as a King. We see a picture of true worship, giving the best we have because of His love for us.

She was anointing her Savior. For though the world would look at Him in the next few days as a criminal, she acknowledged Him as her God and Savior. And it was the ultimate act that she could do in showing her love for Him.” Duncan

What did Jesus say in verse 13?

David said, “*I will not give the Lord that which cost me nothing.*”

Personal testimony from JMac:

“She loved Jesus so much she could have cared less what anybody else thought. I measured my love all week long as I studied this and I came up short. I really did. I guess I haven’t learned to love like that but I want God to teach me to love like that because I want to learn to love so that I can pour out everything I have to Jesus Christ. He deserves it. And I want to love Him that way and I hope and pray that you do because it’s not right for us to say we love Him and then not show it by total sacrifice. Boy, what could be done if we all had that kind of uncontrollable love to pick out the most precious commodity we have in the world that we’re saving up for some rainy day and just say, “Here, it belongs to You, Jesus, all of it.” How sweet it must have been and how Jesus’ heart must have been filled with that love that Mary was giving Him.”