



Calvary of Albuquerque

A Meal to Reveal the Heart - John 12:1-11

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

If you were to step into the home of Simon at Bethany (Mark 14:3) on that night, you would've seen Jesus and His disciples along with Lazarus and His two sisters reclining at a low table for a meal in honor of Christ. But if you were to step into the hearts of those people, you would discover they were all very different from each other. Those inside the house and outside represent the gamut of feelings about Jesus—from adoring love to intense hatred. What a complicated meal!

OUTLINE

- I. Diverse Relationship (vv. 1-3)
- II. Dangerous Discipleship (vv. 4-6)
- III. Divine Stewardship (vv. 7-8)
- IV. Diabolical Censorship (vv. 9-11)



Talking Points:

1. If you had a year's wages to blow on one extravagant gift, what would you buy and for whom?
2. If you had a year's wages to give to the cause of Christ, where would you give it? What's the most extravagant thing you ever did for the Lord? Did you regret it?
3. What was the biggest difference between Mary's attitude and that of Judas? How can you pour perfume on Jesus this week?

DETAILED NOTES

Your physical heart weighs a pound or a little less, but it pumps 100,000 times a day--pushing 2,000 gallons of blood through 60,000 miles of arteries, capillaries, and veins. The Bible speaks about the heart as the core or center of being. The heart is where you decide, desire, and deliberate: It is the core of your being. "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

According to the Bible, your heart is affected by the fall of mankind: "The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?" (Jeremiah 17:9 NLT) Whether young or old, rich or poor, the same truth applies: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23). Some live their whole lives with a heart unchanged, unchallenged, unaltered: unsaved. Others meet Christ and He changes them from the inside out.

When we step into this scene at Bethany, we see some familiar faces: Jesus, Lazarus, Martha, Mary, the disciples. This occurs one week before His death on the cross. If we could step into their hearts, we would find different motives: good, bad, grateful, greedy, loving, and angry.

- I. Diverse Relationship (vv. 1-3)

People who love Jesus in their own manner. They are gathered at the house of Simon the leper (Mark 14:3). Because we know that lepers didn't eat with others and were ostracized we can determine that Simon was likely healed of leprosy by Jesus. There were at least seventeen people gathered at the meal.

 - A. Lazarus - he sat
 1. Not a word recorded
 2. His life itself was a witness (a living testimony of the power of Jesus through the resurrection)
 - B. Martha - she served
 1. Serving was her love language
 2. Martha has had a change of heart (see Luke 10:38-39)
 - a. Not complaining
 - b. Jesus is not rebuking her
 3. Serving with a different attitude
 4. Expressing worship through service
 - C. Mary - she sits at Jesus' feet
 1. Oil of spikenard

- a. Plant of northern India, sold in alabaster flask or box; fibrous root 3-12" long, rooted 30-40 pikes; a sweet spicy, musky oil extracted used for baths and burial.
 - b. Expensive: 300 denarii=one year's wage
 - D. Three examples of unique relationships with Christ
 - 1. Allow for differences that exist between people and Christ
 - 2. God loves variety
 - 3. "There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us" (1 Corinthians 12:5-6).
 - 4. Allow individual relationships and expressions of worship as long as they are biblically based and not violating Scripture.
- II. Dangerous Discipleship (vv. 4-6) Judas Iscariot
 - A. First recorded words, chronologically
 - B. Iscariot - from Kerioth; the only disciple not from Galilee
 - C. Gospel writers always mention: disciple and betrayer
 - D. Judas is a synonym for treachery
 - E. He says the lavish gift is an extravagant waste
 - 1. He has a bitter view of life because he has a bitter heart
 - 2. What he sees is dependent on what is going on in his heart
 - 3. He is a thief: κλέπτης kleptēs a thief who steals by stealth with a careful plan
 - F. "That anyone could follow Christ as a disciple for three years, see all His miracles, hear all His teaching, receive at His hand repeated kindnesses, be counted an Apostle, and yet prove rotten at heart in the end, all this at first sight appears incredible and impossible! Yet the case of Judas shows plainly that the thing can be. Few things, perhaps, are so little realized as the extent of what desperate hardness and unbelief there is in the heart of man." J. C. Ryle
 - G. Critical of people, hypocritical before God
 - H. Judas is an illustration of Matthew 7:3
 - : "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?"
 - I. We should live like a set of forgiving golf clubs: with a bigger sweet spot.
- III. Divine Stewardship (vv. 7-8) Jesus weighs in
 - A. Affirms Mary
 - 1. Let her alone!
 - 2. Mary is a living prophecy
 - 3. Mary understands Jesus will die and be buried
 - 4. Mary is always at the feet of Jesus
 - a. In her home (Luke 10:39)
 - b. At the funeral of Lazarus (John 11:32)
 - c. At this dinner (John 12:3)
 - 5. When at the feet of Jesus there is a special connection to understand His plan and will
 - 6. Hebrew idiom: to sit at someone's feet is to learn from that person
 - B. Rebukes Judas
 - 1. "The poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always"
 - a. Not endorsing poverty or apathy
 - b. Quoting scripture: "There will always be some among you who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share your resources freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need" (Deuteronomy 15:11 NLT)
 - 2. There will always be opportunities for generous activity but you must seize opportunities for personal ministry
 - a. Jesus will be alive only one more week
 - b. We have unique opportunities in this life
 - i. Give money
 - ii. Share the gospel
- IV. Diabolical Censorship (vv. 9-11)
 - A. Resurrection of Lazarus is big news; crowds are gathering
 - B. Chief priests plot to put Lazarus to death
 - 1. Caiaphas: "One man should die for the people" (John 11:50)
 - 2. Now two must die
 - 3. Lazarus is the greatest piece of evidence to the power of Christ
 - 4. Get rid of the evidence!

The irreducible minimum: it is impossible to be neutral concerning Jesus Christ. "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad" (Matthew 12:30). The stand you take determines your own destiny, not His! Peter stated: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Your heart can be Christ's Home! (*My Heart—Christ's Home* by Robert Boyd Munger).

Greek terms: κλέπτης kleptēs a thief who steals by stealth with a careful plan

Figures Referenced: J. C. Ryle

Publications Reference: *My Heart—Christ's Home*, by Robert Boyd Munger

Cross References: Deuteronomy 15:11; Proverbs 4:23; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 7:3; Matthew 12:30; Mark 14:3; Luke 10:38-39; John 11:32; John 11:50; John 12:3; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 12:5-6