

Sermon Listening Guide (September 20, 2026)

Scripture: John 12:1-11

Sermon Title: "Worship!"

First Thoughts

John 12 finds Jesus poised to enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and approach the cross.

Just outside Jerusalem, he stops in Bethany where he has many friends.

An Act of Worship!

At this dinner in honor of Jesus, Mary shows her love for Jesus.

She worships him by anointing him with expensive perfume.

This act is also a foreshadowing of the preparation for burial of Jesus.

Her sacrificial gift is a great act of worship.

Your giving is an act of worship too.

An Act of Selfishness

In verses 4 and 5, Judas appears as a counter to Mary's act of generosity.

He represents those that would choose something else over the worship of Jesus.

His call for giving to the poor masks a twisted heart.

Gifts to Jesus are never wasted gifts.

Many of your friends will never understand your generosity as an act of pure worship.

Give to Further God's Work

Mary gives as she is able, and she gives at the right time.

In Mark 14:6-9, Jesus explains that Mary's gift will never be forgotten by this world.

It is in giving our best and our all that the Gospel is spread.

Conclusion

This wild dinner in John 12 showed a host of reactions to Jesus and his sacrifice.

How are you giving him all of you?