



ON THE WAY TO CALVARY
Wednesday, March 29, 2023

John 12: 1-8

John devoted almost half 50% of his Gospel to the last week of Jesus's life before Calvary-Matthew used more than 33% of his Gospel to cover that period. Mark uses about 40% and Luke 25%.

Six days before the death of Jesus is where our study begins in John chapter 12.

Verse #1 -Jesus is at dinner with Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. A celebration dinner in Jesus's honor. Jesus and Lazarus are at the table, and Martha is serving. Then in verse #3, the attention shifts to Mary. In the midst of supper, Mary gives a remarkable gift to Jesus. It wasn't unusual to wash the feet of guests, but it was unusual to do it during the meal itself, use very costly oil, and wipe the feet with her hair.

(1) Mary's gift was remarkably humble- usually, when a guest entered a home, someone washed their feet with water and with a dab of oil or perfume. Here Mary used this precious ointment and anointed His feet. She considered the ointment only good enough for His feet. To attend to the feet was the task of the lowly slave. Therefore, Mary's action denoted great humility as well as devotion.

(2) Mary's gift was remarkably extreme- She used a pound, 12 ounces of costly, very costly oil of spikenard. The oil was usually used as an investment because they were

small and portable and could be easily sold. Judas believed it could have been sold for 300 denarii- a year's wages.

(3) Mary's gift was unselfish- Not only did she give the expensive oil, but she also wiped His feet with her hair. This means she let her hair down in public, something Jewish women would never do in public.

Mary is a great study of devotion. Mary has three memorable pictures for us to model:

- **Luke 10:39-** Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and learned.
- **John 11:32-** Mary fell at the feet of Jesus and surrendered.
- **John 12:3-** Mary anointed the feet of Jesus and honored Him.

Devotion v. Betrayal (vv.4-6)

- This is the only place in the New Testament where Judas is mentioned as doing something evil other than the betrayal itself. He successfully hid the darkness of his heart from everyone except Jesus.
- Outward appearance of obedience- many people have a religious façade that hides secret sin. Imagine he thought this was too much love and devotion to show for Jesus.
- Judas's criticism showed self-interest and revealed that he was utterly opposed to the Spirit of the Lord Himself. Note Jesus's response **(v.7)**.
- Judas's attitude was contagious. He was not alone in his objection-**Matthew 26:8**