

You, Be YOU - to the Glory of God!

John 12:1-11

I. Intro

- A. John Piper famously said, "Missions exists because worship doesn't."
 - 1. We are at war, but the gospel isn't what we fight for - it is what we fight with. We fight for the glory of the King, proclaiming his dominion and kingdom right to rule. We call out to the servants and slaves of the enemy, telling them that there is a better king and you can serve him instead
- B. His name is King Jesus, the Christ.
 - 1. *May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! (Psalm 72:8)*
 - 2. *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)*
 - 3. A large swath of the world has no access to this glory. Our king isn't worshipped... obeyed... followed. The people there live and die in ignorance or resistance. They don't love our king! **(Dec. offering slide)**
- C. But what can I do about it? I wrestled w/ that for a long time. I still do. When you don't know the answer to something, what do you tend to do: ask, research, look to others
 - 1. Option 1 → What are other people doing? Should I do that?
 - 2. Option 2 → What am I doing? Everyone should be like me.
 - 3. Option 3 → You, be you.

II. John 12:1-11 (walk through and explain)

- A. *[1] Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. [2] So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. [3] Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. [4] But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, [5] "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" [\$26,000] [6] He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. [7] Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. [8] For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." [9] When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. [10] So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, [11] because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.*

III. DBS

A. Jesus is worth all that you have to give.

B. Give Jesus the best thing that you have to give.

IV. What gift do you give to a king?

A. What did Simon the Leper bring?

B. What did Lazarus bring?

1. What did he do? Nothing really. He just was different. A new creation, a new identity, a new man.

C. What did Martha bring?

D. What did Mary bring?

1. She wanted to do something that would be deeply meaningful for Jesus.
2. Now, in Luke 7, we read about a previous dinner that Jesus had attended.
 - a) In that incident Jesus was reclining at dinner at the table of a Pharisee. The Pharisee had not been considerate. He had not washed Jesus' feet or anointed his head, and as they were reclining with their feet away from the table, in came a prostitute.
 - b) She was clutching a vial, and as she came to Jesus, she was intending to anoint Jesus' head. But she lost control and began to weep, and her tears fell on Jesus' feet, which were all dusty, making quite a mess. The prostitute did not know what to do, so she used her hair to clean his feet. As she did so, she was again overcome with emotion.
 - c) Luke 7:38, "She . . . wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment."
3. It seems that Mary had this incident in the back of her mind. She thought, "I want to do the same thing for Jesus. I want him to know how much I love him." So, she left the room and, according to v3: *Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*
4. Her action was very costly - \$26,400 by minimum wage standards. Over \$25,000 just poured onto Jesus' dusty feet!
5. Mary gave her most treasured possession to Jesus, but HER treasured possessions may not be the same as YOURS.
 - a) Something tells me that Martha valued service, work, compliment about her food, more than she did the perfume...
 - b) Something tells me that Simon the Leper couldn't care a lick about perfume - he was just glad to have fingers
 - c) Lazarus was given new life - he probably had a different perspective on what he valued
6. But Mary, this was important to her. But don't miss this.
 - a) 1 Corinthians 11:15 says that a woman's long hair is to her glory. Just ask little girls who want to be like Rapunzel.

- b) So, essentially, Mary lets down her glory to glorify the king and anoint his soon to be pierced feet.
 - c) Then, as she gets up from this posture of sacrifice, she walks around the house and spreads his glory, via her glory poured out for the King, around the whole house.
 - d) What a beautiful picture of this party - *Romans 12:1, I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*
 - e) Mary glorified Jesus w/ her actions, and her actions filled the house with the fragrance of his glory so that OTHERS noticed
- E. Here's the thing - each of them glorified Jesus, exactly as they uniquely could!
How did each glorify Jesus?

1. **Simon the Leper, who was formerly isolated, now opened his home to others for the glory of King Jesus!**
2. **Lazarus was dead, but now was alive for the glory of King Jesus!**
3. **Martha used to serve with bitter duty, but now she served with delight for the glory of King Jesus!**
4. **Mary gave her most treasured possession for a far greater purpose than helping the poor. She gave it to glorify King Jesus.**

V. What does this mean for you?

- A. What gift do you give to a king?**
- B. We aren't the same. We aren't all Marys, Marthas, Simons, Lazaruses
- C. You are you, and - if you are in Christ - you have the capacity to be a God glorifying, redeemed version of yourself.
- D. You have unique gifts, unique abilities, unique stories, unique wounds, unique bank accounts → these can be redeemed and used for the glory of Jesus.
- E. You can only be you. You can't be me. I can't be you. You can't be the person sitting next to you, and they can't be you. You can only be you, redeemed by Jesus to... glorify the King.
- F. How do you glorify God?
 1. **Having repented and believed, glorify God as a re-made YOU!**
 2. John Piper says that when we are satisfied in him above all else, he is most glorified.
 3. How else could you serve unless you are more satisfied in someone else? How else could you host? How else could you sacrifice? You need to love someone else more than yourself!
 4. What activities do you do? Whatever makes you, YOU.
- G. Peter, who was present for this festive party, summarizes our role this way: *1 Peter 4:7-11 [7] The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. [8] Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. [9] Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] As each has received a gift, use it to serve one*

another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: [11] whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

H. Simon gave his home. Lazarus gave his story. Martha gave her servant's heart. Mary gave her most treasured possession.

I. What has God given you?

1. Hamas and Jaan story from Father Glorified - playing soccer for month before someone asked about Jesus
2. A story? A testimony? Loads of money? A Generous heart? A desire to serve? The passion to communicate? The ability to paint?
3. Take a moment to jot it down.

4. Whatever it is, use it for the spread of the gospel and the glory of God - until the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord!

J. A little voice will tell you, "This can't make a difference. This is stupid. God can't use that. God won't use that."

1. Imagine how Mary felt after cracking open that jar and everyone started to sneer. But she has an anecdote in the Bible!
2. Imagine how the little boy felt when he handed the apostles a few fish and loaves, but then Jesus multiplied it to feed the masses.

K. God has given you all kinds of gifts, and he wants to use them for his glory. He can multiply them if you allow them to be used. He can redeem every hurt. He can bring beauty out of every broken dream. If you will let him.

L. Ephesians 3:20–21, [20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.