



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel

John 12:1-11

From sermon 6.23.24

Read *John 12:1-11*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Before Jesus heads to the Holy City for those final days of His earthly ministry, a well-deserved dinner is held in His honor. In her immeasurable indebtedness to Christ, Mary makes this extravagant offering and act of worship. Besides being a beautiful account, the events should lead us to examine two things: our own worship practices and just how much Jesus divides all mankind.

1. Besides Mary's lavish offering, the Bible lists several other things that are also "fragrant offerings". Read each passage and note the various symbolism.

Exodus 30:6-8 = the incense burned in the Holy Place

Leviticus 23:18 = the meat and grain offerings given by faith for sin. (almost 50 times in Scripture)

Psalms 141:2 & Revelation 5:8 = the prayers of God's people

Ephesians 5:2 = Christ's atoning death on behalf of the elect

Philippians 4:18 = the weekly tithes and offerings of the Church

2. Mary honored Christ with her most prized possession. Are we all commanded, then, to sell our most costly possessions and give the money to the Church? Not at all. However, if something has become an idol in our life (our god), then we would need to repent and possibly remove that idol. See *Matthew 19:20-22*

2a. Mary's act does compel us to examine if we are lavish in our giving as God is with us, or does He get our leftovers. Does salvation alone obligate us to a 10% formula? No. Everything we have is His. We are temporary stewards. See also *2 Samuel 24:24*

3. According to the John 12 text, what did Israel's religious leaders fear losing? What did they reveal as their most prized possession? Their beautiful temple and their positions of power.

4. List some things that might inhibit our worship. Various Answers Mindset/emotions. Sin. Distractions. The opinion of others. Tradition. Fear. [note: we do not mean the chaotic running around & gibberish of the charismatic's worship. God is a God of order]. What acts of acceptable worship are described in the Bible?

- Sing—*Colossians 3:16*
- Clap—*Psalms 47:1*
- Shout
- Raise hands—*1 Timothy 2:8*
- Dance
- Submission & Discipleship—*Romans 12:1*

5. Discuss the statement: Jesus is the most divisive person in history. List Examples.