

"Giving...Glory: Mary's Treasure"

John 12:1-8

John 12:1 ¶ Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

John 12:2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

John 12:3 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.

John 12:4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said,

John 12:5 "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

John 12:6 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.

John 12:7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.

John 12:8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

Introduction:

- This message today is a bit more topical. It's like the 2-sided coin. On one side, we will see the connection with John's gospel. On the other side we will look at some over-arching principles of giving...for the glory of God.
- State the 3-week treatment of this passage. Avoid this being on par with the sermon a pastor preached on Gethsemane with the title "How to Deal with Stress".
- Honest assessment of financial situation and plan...where does 2nd floor and Demonstration Day fit in
- Interview Denny Tune
 - Introduce as Chairman of Finance Committee
 - Denny, tell us what your role is on Sunday mornings.
 - How long have you taught overall?
 - What do you enjoy most about teaching?

- How has the current Children Desiring God curriculum affected your teaching and the kids' response?
- How would you encourage the body to give today toward the 2nd Floor Children's area?
- Much more exhorting in nature. The details will be further explored in a few weeks.

TREASURING CHRIST MEANS SPARING NO EXPENSE (v.3)

- A) It's "value"
 - a. Lavish
 - b. One year's wage for a commoner
- B) It's purposes
 - a. Humility
 - b. Honor

TREASURING CHRIST MEANS GOING AGAINST THE WORLD (vv.4-6)

- A) Judas' perspective
 - a. World's idea of benevolence is still acts of self-righteousness
 - b. Seeks to exalt men, not Christ
- B) Using earthly treasures in a way that confounds the world
 - a. Tax returns and stimulus' checks
 - b. Regular income
 - c. Eternal kingdom, NOT earthly kingdoms
 - i. How do we deal with this and building buildings and children's spaces
 - ii. Honestly assess our hearts and what are we trusting to reach people (the gospel NOT spaces – No DisneyWorld Christianity here!)

TREASURING CHRIST MEANS TRUSTING CHRIST (vv.7-8)

- A) Every gift that is Christ-honoring is cross-centered
 - a. More going on than Mary possibly understood
 - b. The day of atonement was approaching fast
- B) Trusts His timing

TREASURING CHRIST PRINCIPLES

- A) God Owns everything...you are a steward: Give like it depends on you, but always know that it doesn't (**Ps.24:1-2**, *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers."*)
- B) Be Content with material things and circumstances, not just by discipline, but by greater delight (**Heb.13:5-6**, *"5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' 6 So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'"*)
 - a. What's your greatest Love?
 - b. Does your life show that you depend on Christ or money?
 - c. The discontentment here is rooted in fear. Fear is the opposite of Faith.
- C) Seek ways to give financially that confounds the world for God's glory (**Matt.19:21-22**, *"21 Jesus said to him, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.' 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."*)
- D) Apply our passion statement to your giving: ***Glorifying God by Treasuring Christ above all things and Reaching others that they may find lasting joy in Him!***
- E) The OFFERING