

ENCOUNTER

YOU CHOOSE APRIL 10, 2022

WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE?

If you had the chance to throw a dinner party for anyone in the world, who would you choose?

How do you imagine you would feel? Would you be able to keep your cool or lose it?

Who else would you invite to this party?

What special might you do for this event?

John tells us of a special dinner party that took place in Bethany.

John 12:1-12—Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for Him there; Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped His feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

In these few verses, three of Jesus' friends are mentioned—Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. Each of these represented a kind of sacrifice for their guest.

1. A Sacrifice of _____ — _____

How did Martha give herself in service?

Do you know someone whose gift is serving others? How do they tend to react in a group event?

Colossians 3:17— And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Do you take opportunities to serve others?

Do you serve for what others might think of you or do you serve as a means of worshipping God?

2. A Sacrifice of _____ — _____

John 17:9-11— Then a large crowd of the Jews learned he was there. They came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, the one he had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests had decided to kill Lazarus also, 11 because he was the reason many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus.

How was Lazarus' life a sacrifice to Jesus?

What about your life points others to Christ?

What has happened to you that if people knew, they would marvel at the goodness of Jesus?

3. A Sacrifice of _____ — _____

John 12:3 — Then Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped His feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4-6—Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was about to betray Him), said, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 He didn't say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it.

Thanks to Judas' critical statement we find out just how much Mary's offering of perfume was worth.

300 Denarii = _____ wage (It would have been about _____ US dollars in Jesus' time.)

What Mary did was unconventional. It was not demanded of her. It was not expected of her. But her actions flowed _____ Mary's reception of Jesus was her _____.

What was Judas' response to Mary's worship?

Compare this account of David:

2 Samuel 6:16, 20-22 — But as the Ark of the Lord entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she was filled with contempt for him.

20 When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet him. She said in disgust, "How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!"

21 David retorted to Michal, "I was dancing before the Lord, who chose me above your father and all his family! He appointed me as the leader of Israel, the people of the Lord, so I celebrate before the Lord. 22 Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes!"

How does this account of David and Michal compare to Mary and Judas?

How does David's statement in verse 22 apply to Mary's actions?

Can your time with God be compared to a Mary experience or a Judas experience?

What happens when a Michal or Judas is in the presence of a David or Mary worshipper?

THE IMPORTANCE OF MARY'S ANOINTING

John 12:1—Six days before the Passover,,,,,

This little phrase has a huge meaning. It tells us that Jesus had spent the weekend before His crucifixion in Bethany visiting with His friends. At Mary's anointing Jesus answered Judas:

John:12:7 —Jesus answered, "Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of My burial. 8 For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."

When Jesus died, it was only three hours before the Passover celebration commemorating when the death angel “passed over” the Jewish homes that had the lamb’s blood smeared on their door in Egypt. They had to rush to take Jesus off the cross, wrap His body, and get it in the grave before Passover. There was no time to anoint His body. This is why the women came three days later to the tomb, to anoint the body after the fact.

Mary’s act was not only worshipful but also prophetic. She captured the only moment available to anoint Jesus for what was to come.

**The _____ of a _____ is only available
for the _____ of the _____.**

In other words...Don’t pass up any chance to serve, worship, or testify of God’s goodness! You may never have another opportunity to do so. How and when you worship is totally your choice!

PRAYER TIME

- Take a few moments to talk intimately with God. Express your love to Him. Seek more time to spend with Him in honest worship.
- Ask God to reveal your true heart to you. Ask Him to remove anything that stands in the way of your expression of love and service to Him. Ask Him to help you not miss an opportunity to be with Him.
- Pray for your testimony to impact the lives of others.