

COMMUNION SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN THE ONE WORTH "WASTING" YOUR LIFE ON John 12:1-11

This is a story about how not to waste your life. It's also a story about motivation: why do you do what you do for the Lord? Do you serve Him for the satisfaction you get when you see results? Do you serve Him because it helps others? The best motive for serving Christ is because He is worthy of everything you can do for Him and because you love Him and want to please Him because He gave Himself for you on the cross.

We will also draw from the parallel accounts of this story in Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9. As we do, be ready to answer this: are you ready to "waste" your life on the One worth "wasting" it on?

1. To "waste" your life on Jesus is to save it.

a) Devotion to Christ will cost you your possessions: "Do you value the Master more than money?" John 12:1-3

b) Devotion to Christ may cost you your reputation: "Do you value Jesus more than your reputation?" John 12:3

- If my love for Jesus never leads me to take a risk, how much do I really love him?
- If we become radical in our love for Christ, people may misunderstand us.

c) Devotion to Christ may cost you the criticism of others: "Do you value Jesus more than your pride?" John 12:4-5

- There are moments when we must act even if no one else joins us.
- We ought not to criticize those who express their love for the Lord differently than we do.

2. Devotion to Christ is motivated by love and gratitude.

• The first question we must ask in all we do is, "Has the Lord been satisfied?"
"Did I do what I did because I love Him and I wanted to please Him?"

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*
Isaac Watts

3. Love and gratitude to Christ flows from knowing Jesus personally. John 12:7

- Every time we encounter Mary in the Gospels, she is at Jesus' feet— learning from Him (Luke 10:39) then, pouring out her sorrow to Him; and now, expressing her love and devotion to Him.
- You won't love the Lord as you should unless you've spent much time at His feet. You do that by spending consistent time in the Word and in prayer.

4. Serving Christ results in the fragrance of Christ surrounding your life.

- After washing Jesus' feet with her hair, you would have smelled the fragrance of that expensive perfume around Mary. Everywhere she went, the fragrance went with her. Can people smell the fragrance of Christ on you? It smells like the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22, 23)

5. You destroy your life if you live it only for yourself. John 12:9-11

- Judas thought that more money would bring him more happiness. The Jewish leaders wanted to hang onto their power. But both parties wasted their lives because they spent them on themselves.

John 12:25 "The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Final Thoughts:

Don't let anyone tell you to back off your love for Jesus. Don't let anyone talk you into being "reasonable" in your joy. Don't let anyone talk you into playing it safe. Mary loved so extravagantly that she scandalized the apostles. But that's why we're still talking about her 2,000 years later.

How much is too much love for Jesus? There is no such thing. Let your affections for him be lavish. And don't worry about what anyone else thinks.