

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint
H.I.S. Men
(Honor – Integrity – Service)
Study in John
(The Beginning of the End)

John 12:1-26 (New Living Translation, Second Edition)

- ^[1] Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead.
- ^[2] A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him.
- ^[3] Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.
- ^[4] But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said,
- ^[5] "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor."
- ^[6] Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself.
- ^[7] Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial.
- ^[8] You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."
- ^[9] When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead.
- ^[10] Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too,
- ^[11] for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.
- ^[12] The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors
- ^[13] took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!"
- ^[14] Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:
- ^[15] "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt."
- ^[16] His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.
- ^[17] Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it.
- ^[18] That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign.
- ^[19] Then the Pharisees said to each other, "There's nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!"
- ^[20] Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration
- ^[21] paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus."
- ^[22] Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.
- ^[23] Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory.
- ^[24] I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.
- ^[25] Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.
- ^[26] Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

Chapter 12 records Jesus' last teaching before the general public.

Mary anointed Jesus with a litre of ointment. The Greek litre equals about 11 ounces and is a lavish amount to pour out on someone. Its quantity indicates Mary's great love and high regard for Jesus. For illustrative purposes (in today's values), this substance would be worth around \$40,000. Only John noted that Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her hair, a true act of humility. Normally Jewish women never unbound their hair in public since loose hair was a sign of loose morals. Evidently Mary's love for Jesus overrides her sense of propriety.

What is Mary's motivation in pouring the perfume on Jesus?

Every one of the Gospels has an “anointing” account, but it does not seem as though all of the Gospel accounts refer to the same event. Luke’s account of the “sinful woman” who anoints Jesus at the home of Simon the Pharisee does not seem to be the same as the anointing of which we are reading in John chapter 12.

John 12:7 (New Living Translation, Second Edition)

^[7] Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial.

In verse 7 Jesus views Mary’s act as a pre-anointing for His death, though Mary may not have viewed it as such.

Application: Mary displays her love for Jesus in a striking and obvious way. What are some of the ways we can display our love for the Savior? Give freely like Mary. We love Jesus/God by our actions and attitudes. Spend time with Him. Get to know Him. Love one another. Conduct ourselves in a way that is different from the world in which we live.

John 12:4-8 (New Living Translation, Second Edition)

^[4] But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said,

^[5] “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.”

^[6] Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.

^[7] Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial.

^[8] You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Verses 4-8 What is behind Judas’ response?

What is Judas’ job?

How would you describe Judas’ character?

How does Jesus respond to Judas’ comment?

Does Jesus care about the poor?

Application:

1. *Jesus argues that what Mary does is because there is little time left. Indeed, we may not have much time left either, until He comes again. We should make good use of our time, even as Mary does in our text, and employ ourselves in doing that which pleases and honors Jesus. And do it today!*
2. *We would do well to use Mary as a model in the extravagance of her worship and adoration of our Lord. She gives away 40K. How do I do when it comes to giving to the Lord? Stewardship is one aspect of worship. He expects us to be good stewards of what He has given us. On the other hand, He given us everything we have. And occasionally giving back to Him—extravagantly—is called for. He is worthy of—and desires—the best we can offer. Not the leftovers.*

John 12:9-11 (New Living Translation, Second Edition)

^[9] When all the people heard of Jesus’ arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead.

^[10] Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too,

^[11] for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

Verses 9-11 Why do the Jews want to kill Lazarus?

What must Lazarus have been doing for them to want to kill him?

Application: Imagine the reaction if we were telling everyone about the miracle Jesus has done in our hearts!

The scene now shifts from a quiet dinner with a few close friends in the small town of Bethany to a noisy public parade through the streets of Jerusalem. This was the only public demonstration that Jesus allowed during His earthly ministry. It is often referred as the Triumphal Entry.

What are the people shouting? Which means?

Why is it important that Jesus come riding in on a young donkey?

Do the people understand what was going on?

John 12:16 (New Living Translation, Second Edition)

^[16] His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him.

In verse 16, how does John explain why they don't understand?

Obviously they and the crowd realized that Jesus was the Messiah, as they conceived of the Messiah. However they did not understand the nature of His messiahship, the necessity of His death, or the plan for His kingdom.

Who are the Greeks?

Why won't Jesus give the Greeks an audience at this time?

Why does Jesus speak of the necessity of His death in response to the Greeks' request to meet with Him?

John 12:23-25 (New Living Translation, Second Edition)

^[23] Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory.

^[24] I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.

^[25] Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

What's the message of the agricultural image in verses 23-25?

In saying what He has, Jesus speaks primarily of Himself and of His imminent death. Jesus means that He will soon die, and that by means of His death, He will produce much life. He cannot be the Savior of the world without first dying.

John 12:26 (New Living Translation, Second Edition)

^[26] Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

According to verse 26, the disciple who wants to serve Jesus must do what?

And where did Jesus go?

Application: Are you ready to take up your cross and follow Him? What does that mean to you?