

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**John 12:1-11**  
**Lesson #41**  
**Anointing Jesus**  
**05/15/2016**

## John 12

"1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

- **The Synoptic Gospels offer some different details - Matt.26:6-13, Mk.14:3-9, (Lk.7:37-39 is probably a different incident).**
- **Note what is unique to John's account (Judas, Mary, anointing of Jesus' feet). Are these clues to John's point?**
- **This is the Mary who sits at Jesus' feet in Luke 10:39.**
- **Nard came from the Himalayas and was very expensive (one year's wages).**

1

"4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?" 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it."

- **Judas is put in dramatic contrast with Mary.**
- **Both Judas and Mary were highly respected as followers of Jesus.**
- **Note how Judas is focused on the material value of the nard - even more than the cultural inappropriateness of Mary's behavior let alone, Jesus' death.**

2

## Comparing Judas and Mary

**Judas**

**Mary**

**Both were trusted followers of Jesus**

**A Jewish man**

**A Jewish woman**

**His eye is on the money**

**Her eye is on the Lord**

**Motivated by self interest disguised as ministry**

**Motivated by selfless and shameless worship**

**Rebuked by Jesus**

**Defended by Jesus**

3

"7 Jesus therefore said, "Let her alone, in order that she may keep it for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me."

- **Jesus' words identify him as much more than a Hebrew prophet.**
- **Jesus is not insensitive to the problem of temporal pain, injustice, and brokenness but suggests that his death addresses a much more comprehensive aspect of poverty - atonement for sin.**
- **Jesus defended Mary in a similar way in Luke 10:38-42.**

4

"9 The great multitude therefore of the Jews learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests took counsel that they might put Lazarus to death also; 11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away, and were believing in Jesus."

- **We see four different values in this text.**

**Judas**

**Mary**

**People**

**Priests**

**Ministry and Money are the real treasures.**

**Jesus is the real treasure.**

**Signs and Wonders are the real treasures.**

**My position and security are the real treasures.**

- **Where our treasure is, there will our heart be also (Matt.6:21).**

5

**Lesson #1**  
**The integrity of the Gospels**

*This is not the kind of story that you would expect to come from the creative propaganda of the early church.*  
Judas & Mary

**Lesson #2**  
**The nature of the church**

*People will be drawn to Christ and his church for many different reasons.*

Users, Worshippers, Curious, & Hostile

**Lesson #3**  
**The extravagance of love**

*A shameless lack of attention to efficiency and productivity are a conspicuous part of God's kingdom, but not ours.*

The waste of worship

6

**John 12:1-11**  
**Purpose driven wealth**



**Three applications of material wealth**

1. Selfish consumption
2. Social compassion
3. **Spiritual communion**

7



**A waste of resources?**

8

**Lesson #4**  
**The nature of poverty**

*Poverty is more than material.*

*The truly poor are:*

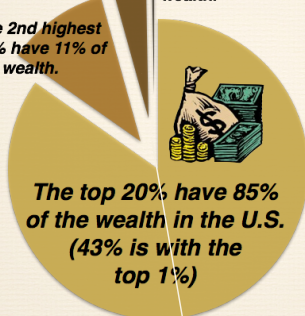
*Socially isolated*  
*Materially deprived*  
*Politically marginalized*  
***Spiritually depressed.***

9

**Economic justice is a challenge for a unregulated free market.**

The middle 20% have 4% of the wealth.

The 2nd highest 20% have 11% of the wealth.



*The 85 richest people in the world have the same wealth as the 3.5 billion poorest people."*

Source - Norton & Airely, 2012, <http://ppd.sagepub.com/>

10

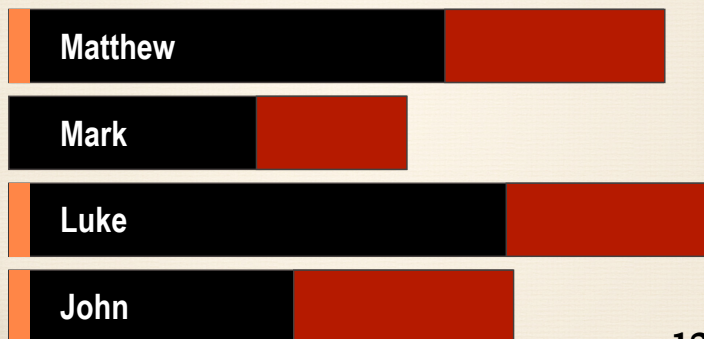
**Observations about economic justice and compassion**

- Material poverty and social injustice play a positive role in the Gospel story.
- At the core of "poverty" is spiritual shame and isolation both of which are displayed and destroyed at the Cross.
- Compassion is an important sign of a disciple's authentic connection with Jesus.
- Social justice and economic reform are not the primary reasons Jesus came.

11

## The emphasis of the Gospels

### The Passion and Resurrection



12

## The emphasis of the Epistles

### Gospels

### The Passion and Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

**The Apostles mirror Mary's interests in Jesus' death and resurrection.**

**Epistles** 13

### Luke 5

"23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk?' 24 But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, - He said to the paralytic - 'I say to you, rise, and take up your stretcher and go home.'"

#### NOTE:

**The eternal significance of Jesus' mission eclipses and is witnessed to by his temporal social behavior.**

14

### Matthew 10

"28 And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows."

#### NOTE:

**The priority of the eternal soul over the temporal body.**

15

### 1 Corinthians 11

"24 . . . 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' 25 . . . 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

#### NOTE:

**We are called to remember and proclaim Jesus' suffering and death not our pardon or social service.**

16

Is this a misunderstanding of the Gospel?



### 1 Corinthians 1:18

"The word of the Cross is to those who are perishing foolishness but to the called it is the power of God."

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