

The Worship Jesus Praises

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I. A Profound Example of the Worship Jesus Praises (3)

- A. The Setting
 - In Bethany



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- A. The Setting
 - In Bethany
 - At the home of Simon the Leper
 - A banquet
 - John 12:2 – “they made him a supper there.”
 - The guests: Jesus and the Twelve
 - The hosts:
 - Simon the Leper
 - John 12:2b – Martha was serving.
 - John 12:2b – Lazarus was one of those reclining *at the table* with Him.

“Reclining at table..”



I. A Profound Example of the Worship Jesus Praises (3)

- A. The Setting
- B. The Form
 - An expensive vial made of alabaster.
 - A very expensive perfume made from nard.
 - Nard is a fragrant ointment that comes from a plant that only grows in the Himalayan Mountains between India and Tibet.
- C. The Display
 - John 12:3b – and wiped His feet with her hair.
 - Cf. Luke records a similar incident about a year and half earlier (Luke 7:36-50).

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What Kind of Worship Does Christ Praise?

- **1)** Extravagant worship!
- **2)** Humble worship!
- **3)** Unashamed worship!

II. Typical Responses to the Worship Jesus Praises (4-5)

- Cf. John 12:4 – But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold?"
- Cf. John 13:29 - Some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor.
- Cf. John 12:6 – 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.

III. Jesus' Explanation of the Worship He Praises (6-9)

- A. Worship itself is a good work (6-7).
 - 1) As long as we live in a fallen world, poverty cannot be fully and completely erased.
 - 2) Believers should be concerned about the poor and needy among them, and should do good to them — especially to other believers.
 - 3) There is a priority higher than helping our fellow man—the worship of Jesus.

III. Jesus' Explanation of the Worship He Praises (6-9)

- B. Worship must be built on right theology (8).
 - Cf. Matt. 9:22; 16:21; Mark 8:31-32; 9:12; 10:32-34; John 6:52-56; 7:33; 8:21-23; 10:11, 15
 - Even Jesus' enemies knew of his predictions (Matt. 27:63).
 - Mary was often sitting at His feet listening to His Word (Luke 10:39).

III. Jesus' Explanation of the Worship He Praises (6-9)

- C. Genuine worship is something Jesus always values in his disciples (9)

Application...

- **1)** Worshipping Jesus from the heart is your highest priority.
 - Michael Barrett: "there is no effective service until there is acceptable worship."

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Application...

- **2)** The worship Jesus praises is a focused worship.
 - a) Listening to Christ's Word and learning from him.
 - Luke 10:39 - [Martha] had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.
 - b) Contemplating and focusing on his death for us.
 - The focus of Mary's worship that Saturday night.

Mary's worship was admirable because...

- It came from a redeemed sinner.
- It was motivated by genuine love for Christ.
- It was done solely for Christ's glory.
- It was informed by a rich theology of the cross.
- It was what she could do.
- It was extravagant, humble, and unashamed.