

A Meal to Reveal the Heart



John 12:1-11

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Your physical heart weights a pound or a little less, but it pumps 100,000 times a day--pushing 2,000 gallons of blood through 60,000 miles of arteries, capillaries, and veins. The Bible speaks about the heart as the core or center of being. the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

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The heart is where you decide, desire, and deliberate: It is the core of your being. "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

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According to the Bible, your heart is affected by the fall of mankind: ""The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?" (Jeremiah 17:9 NLT)

Whether young or old, rich or poor, the same truth applies: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23).

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Some live their whole lives with a heart unchanged, unchallenged, unaltered: unsaved. Others meet Christ and He changes them from the inside out.

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When we step into this scene at Bethany, we see some familiar faces: Jesus, Lazarus, Martha, Mary, the disciples. This occurs one week before His death on the cross. If we could step into their hearts, we would find different motives: good, bad, grateful, greedy, loving, and angry

I. Diverse Relationships

People who love Jesus in their own manner.

They are gathered at the house of Simon the leper (Mark 14:3). Because we know that lepers didn't eat with others and were ostracized we can determine that Simon was likely healed of leprosy by Jesus. There were at least seventeen people gathered at the meal.

I. Diverse Relationships

Lazarus - he sat

Martha - she served

Mary - she sits at Jesus feet

I. Diverse Relationships

Oil of spikenard

Plant of northern India, sold in alabaster flask or box; fibrous root 3-12" long, rooted 30-40 pikes; a sweet spicy, musky oil extracted used for baths and burial.

Expensive: 300 denarii=one year's wage

I. Diverse Relationships

Three examples of unique relationships with
Christ

Allow individual relationships and expressions
of worship as long as they are biblically based
and not violating Scripture.

II. Dangerous Discipleship (vv. 4-6) Judas Iscariot

First recorded words, chronologically

He sees the lavish gift is an extravagant waste

He has a bitter view of life because he has a
bitter heart

II. Dangerous Discipleship (vv. 4-6) Judas Iscariot

J. C. Ryle

"That anyone could follow Christ as a disciple for three years, see all His miracles, hear all His teaching, receive at His hand repeated kindnesses, be counted an Apostle, and yet prove rotten at heart in the end, all this at first sight appears incredible and impossible!

II. Dangerous Discipleship (vv. 4-6) Judas Iscariot

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Yet the case of Judas shows plainly that the thing can be. Few things, perhaps, are so little realized as the extent of what desperate hardness and unbelief there is in the heart of man."

II. Dangerous Discipleship (vv. 4-6) Judas Iscariot

Judas is an illustration of Matthew 7:3

"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?"

We should live like a set of forgiving golf clubs:
with a bigger sweet spot.