

John 12

(Part 1)

John 12 (Part 1)

vs 1-8 Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany
vs 9-11 The Plot to Kill Lazarus

John 12 (Part 2)

vs 12-19 The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
vs 20-50 More teaching on why Jesus came to earth



Bethany

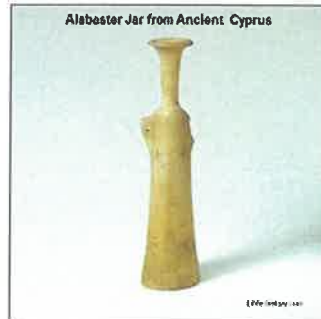
- 2 miles outside Jerusalem
- Borders Mount of Olives; overlooks Jerusalem
- During Passover, popular lodging location
- Home of Mary, Martha, Lazarus (siblings)
- Jesus was a frequent visitor at their home
- Fig & palm trees were plentiful
- Small & seemingly insignificant—yet world-changing events
- Where:
 - Jesus cursed Fig tree; (Mark 11)
 - Jesus raised Lazarus from dead (John 11)
 - Simon the leper lived (Mark 14)
 - Jesus ascended back into Heaven (Luke 24)
 - Jesus will return (Zech 14; Acts 1, Rev 19)

Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. ³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so 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.”



Spikenard "the very best"



Spikenard

- Flowering plant of the honeysuckle family
- Distinguished by its hairy spikes shooting out from one root.
- Grows in the eastern Himalayas & India
- Grows 4–20 inches in height and has pink, bell-shaped flowers.
- Found at altitudes of 9,800–16,400 ft.
- Roots can be crushed and distilled
 - intensely aromatic amber-colored essential oil, perfume, incense, sedative
- Oil prepared from the root was highly valued.
 - Symbolized the “very best” in ancient cultures
 - Could have been a family heirloom passed down; part of dowry; kept for special once-in-a-lifetime occasion
 - Women would often carry a small alabaster jar around their neck—in anticipation of something special (wedding, etc...). Or would keep larger quantities in a larger jar (often alabaster)

Alabaster Flask

- Natural alabaster: is translucent; can resemble white marble.
- Soft and easily carved, it was also easily broken.
- Sealed to keep the ointments from evaporating, they might need to be broken to release the ointment.
- Often as part of dowry; inheritance
- Found in tombs from this period near Jerusalem
 - Lavished the ointment on deceased loved ones.
 - Kept as planning for a funeral

What do we notice about Mary's response to Jesus being there?

WHEN is an act of extravagance is appropriate?

What purposes does it serve?

4 Common Characteristics of Godly, Extravagant Love

1. Calculates the cost, and proceeds anyway*
2. Prompted by the Holy Spirit
3. Giver is humble, concerned with the receiver (not self); personally motivated
4. Lasting impact

** no cost/benefit analysis; but not impulsive, either*

Examples of extravagant giving in the Bible, that the Lord really loved to see—and honored:

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

The Widow's Offering (Luke 21)

21 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ² and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³ And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Encouragement to Give Generously (2 Cor 8)

8 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵ and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

Do we see any common threads among these people giving extravagantly in these passages?

How can we be, if not extravagant, at least generous givers to the Lord Jesus?

Gauging the condition of my heart regarding financial generosity:

- Did my possessions come from God's hand or my hand?
- Do I regularly give to the Kingdom? Why?
- If I don't regularly give to the Kingdom, why not?
- Do I strive for financial independence? Independence from Whom?
- Do I secretly believe that if I had more income I'd be happier?
- What has captured my heart lately?
- Am I storing up heavenly or earthly treasures?
- Am I possessed by my possessions?
- Is there any portion of my possessions "off limits" to God?
- What would it take to be giving sacrificially?
- Am I satisfied with God's provision?

John 12: 9-11 The Plot to Kill Lazarus

⁹ When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.