

"Preoccupied with Jesus" John 12:1-8; Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-11

A life preoccupied with Jesus is a life of worship. This is the life whose central focus is Jesus, with all other matters are arranged around Him. Mary's life illustrates such a life for us, both the sacrifices required and the rich reward.

Scenes from the life of Mary, sister of Lazarus and Martha.

Gift – time with Jesus. She made the most of it.

Four significant times we see Mary with Jesus in the gospels:

1. Mary listening to Jesus; Luke 10:38-42
2. When Lazarus died; John 11:30-35
3. Pouring perfume on Jesus' feet – John 12:1-8
4. After His resurrection – Mt. 28:1-9

Where is she each time? At His feet. Listening. Worshipping.

I. Focusing on Jesus is a lifestyle

Mt. 26:2, 10-12 (announced His death right before the anointing) She had insight that others had missed; she seemed to know He was going to die; He had said it many times but they missed it

Listened. Others did not.

A lifestyle that leads to insight, wisdom, true understanding of life, self, God. Jesus is longing to speak with each one of us, but we have to slow down and sit at His feet. We see what is really important.

II. Focusing on Jesus is MOST important – Luke 10

Martha loved Jesus; didn't understand what Jesus wanted most from her

Matt 26:10-13

Not bad to give to the poor; just not most important at that time.

Good to serve the Lord; provide for family; serve others
Time with Jesus always a priority; other things fill in around it.

Worship will be our preoccupation for eternity; now we practice

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore: His sov'reign majesty, may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.
(Come thou Almighty King)

III. Focusing on Jesus requires courage – John 12:3

perfume – a little bit goes a long ways. Small amount required.

Permeates atmosphere; affects senses of others; unavoidable what Mary did

Setting of Mt. 26 and John 12 and Mark 14

Jesus is at the end of His ministry; about to be crucified; Bethany

Meal in home of Simon who was healed of leprosy; Mk. 14:3

Lazarus was just raised; the town is buzzing

Jesus is the honored guest; enjoying the meal; reclining at the table; conversation

Sound of glass breaking; all conversation stops; what is going on here?

Women weren't on the top rung of the societal ladder; unseemly for a single woman let down her hair; to be wiping the feet of a single rabbi

Everyone in the room misinterprets what Mary is doing. Unseemly; wasteful. Bad decision.

What is the reality? Mary is worshipping.

Life centered around Jesus makes others feel uncomfortable. Pressure to conform

Not just singing songs on Sunday morning.

IV. Focusing on Jesus is costly – Mark 14:3-5

1. Nard = Aromatic oil extracted from a plant from East India

Normal flask of perfume contained an ounce; used as an investment; small, easily stored, easily negotiated with in the market

Special guests might have drop or two placed upon their heads

Jesus has a POUND (Roman pound = 12 oz.) poured on his feet

2. 300 denarii = 10-11 months wages; life's savings

3. Breaks the vial; holds nothing back

Acts 5; Ananias and Sapphira (wanted to be seen worshipping by others)

Abraham/Isaac; Mount Moriah; Gen. 22:1-5 – we will go up to worship

This was not law, nor was it practical; it was pure worship

Mary's gift was appropriate in light of what Jesus was about to give to her.

Application

Jesus is inviting you to focus on Him for the first time. His gift.

Eliminate other preoccupations. Put Him in the center.