

“Breakthrough!” in 2022

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 01.15.2022

WHOLE HEARTED WORSHIP-JOHN 12:1-11

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel stated “The topic of today’s message is worship. Typically, when we think of worship, we think of praise music. While that is certainly one kind of worship, it is by no means the only kind of worship there is. Today, we’re going to be considering three different types of worship. The reason this all matters is because God is looking for worshippers. Jesus told us that in John 4. He didn’t say that God is looking for worship. What He said was He wants are worshippers. He doesn’t need our worship, but He wants it. Why? Because He knows that we will become like whatever we worship. You will eventually become like whatever you continually behold. So, that is why it is imperative that we learn how to behold Him in worship.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?
2. How does the giving of one’s time, talents and treasures reveal where their heart is?
3. What motivates you to keep serving Jesus?

How we use our time, talents and treasures reveals what we value. When we steward these areas in ways that reflect worldly priorities, we don’t show the honor due Jesus Christ. Jesus calls every believer to focus on Him and not the things of this world. Jesus’ life was one of love given freely. Today we will see how Mary recognized Jesus’ love and responded with an extravagant gift that reflected her love for Him. She is an example of one who gave her best to Jesus.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

Luke 10:38-42 records one of Jesus’ previous visits to the home of Mary, her sister Martha, and brother Lazarus in Bethany. Luke notes that while distracted Martha prepared for company, Mary remained at the feet of Jesus, listening to Him and worshipping Him. The choice Mary made kept her focused on the truth rather than on the trivial. On another occasion, Jesus came after Lazarus’s death and raised him back to life. Just days later, in John 12, Mary’s story continues to serve as an example of someone whose unwavering focus was on Jesus.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 12:1-3

1. Why do you think Mary acted as she did, especially considering her actions were being viewed by other people?

Jesus went back to Bethany with His disciples six days before the Passover with His impending His death on the cross coming if a few days. During the meal in Bethany an extraordinary event happened. Mary took a pound of fragrant oil, valued at 300 denarii or the equivalent of a man’s yearly wage, and used it to anoint Jesus’ feet. Mary’s heart was a place of complete, simple devotion.

2. If you were to give your very best to God, what would that include?
3. Why do you think people often have difficulty giving God the glory He is due?
4. Does a person’s generosity or sacrifice reflect the value he or she places on Jesus? Explain.

Mary’s act of extravagant love was focused on Jesus. Believers, whether in the 1st century or the 21st century, keep their focus on Jesus by giving Him the best of who they are and what they have rather than holding back for themselves. By doing so, we show our reverence to Him as Savior and Lord of our lives. Giving our very best to Jesus serves as a testament to the importance of His kingdom and values, not those of this world, our temporary home.

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ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 12:4-11

Mary humbled herself by wiping Jesus’ feet and displayed great devotion to Him with the expensive fragrant oil. After a display of love came a display of selfishness. Mary’s generosity was misunderstood and criticized. The other disciples present at the dinner—specifically Judas—voiced their objection to what they perceived as extravagant waste.

1. How would you compare Judas comments with that of Mary’s heartfelt service?
2. Why did Jesus respond the way that He did? What does this event teach you about serving Him?
3. How does a believer’s life look different when he or she is seeking Jesus’ approval?
4. What problems might believers face when they choose to seek Jesus’ approval rather than that of others?
5. Why in the world would the Chief Priests plot to kill both Jesus and Lazarus?

Concern for the poor was not the real motive behind Judas’s outburst; greed was. Mary’s generosity was less about cost and more about the cross. Jesus’ words about the poor did not mean His disciples should think of poverty as inevitable and therefore do nothing. Rather, Jesus meant that believers will always have opportunities to help poor people, but this was Mary’s last opportunity to minister to Him before His death. Likely Mary did not realize that Jesus’ death was near any more than the disciples did. Jesus, however, viewed Mary’s actions as a kind of pre-anointing for His death on the cross, His sacrifice that gave humanity a gift unsurpassed by all others.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Judas saw what Mary did that night as a waste. The irony in that, of course, is that it was his life that was a waste. Think about it. Judas was blessed with one of the rarest and greatest privileges in the history of the world. He was hand-picked by Jesus to be one of twelve guys who literally got to walk and talk and eat and sleep next to God in human flesh for three and half years. And yet, in the end he betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Judas was one of those guys who knew the price of everything but the value of nothing. It’s interesting that the bible calls Judas ‘the son of perdition’ which can literally be translated as, ‘son of waste.’ He held back and his whole life ended up being a complete waste. On the other hand, when Jesus saw Mary pour out her heart in reckless abandon and whole-hearted devotion, it moved Him.

1. How does our attitude in generosity reveal our relationship with God to others? How might we misrepresent God if we’re not joyful givers?
2. How does true worship of Jesus change the attitude of our hearts in serving Jesus?
3. Pastor Daniel mentioned a man named Brother Lawrence. Lawrence said, *‘The time of work does not with me differ from the time of worship; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, even while several people are at the same time calling out for different things, I commune with God in as great a tranquility as if I were upon my knees in prayer in the holiest cathedral of worship.’* **How does this statement impact you? How is Brother Lawrence attitude like that of Mary and Martha and Lazarus?**

PRAYER – Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

" Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased." {Hebrews 13:15-16}