



## GRATEFUL TO THE POINT OF PERSONAL COST

John 12:1-11

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**Big Idea: When you are truly grateful for what God has done for you, it will cause you to respond with spontaneous generosity.**

**John 12:1-11** (Compare with Matthew 26 and Mark 14)

### PRINCIPLES ABOUT GRATITUDE:

#### BE GRATEFUL FOR THE RESURRECTION.

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for him there.

#### BE GRATEFUL FOR PEOPLE \_\_\_\_\_ THEY ARE GONE.

<sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

#### BE GRATEFUL EVEN WHEN IT COSTS YOU.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

#### BE GRATEFUL SO THAT \_\_\_\_\_ WILL NOT CREEP IN.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

#### BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

## Grateful to the Point of Personal Cost

**John 12:1-11**

On a scale of 1-10, rate yourself: Are you a grateful person?

What are some marks of a grateful person? What do they say, what do they do, how do they act?

What is the best example of gratitude you can think of?

Read John 12:1-11

Keep in mind

- Jesus had clearly demonstrated that He was the Messiah
- Jesus claimed to be the Messiah and the Son of God (God)
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead
- Many believed in Jesus, but others reported Him to the Pharisees
- Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation of Israel and all of God's children scattered abroad.
- Jesus knew that the leaders were out to kill him
- He returned to Bethany in spite of the risks

Put yourselves in the place of Jesus, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. How would you describe this supper reunion since the resurrection of Lazarus?

Read also Matthew 26: 6-13 and Mark 14:3-9

(Do not confuse this account with Luke 7:36-50, which was in Simon, the Pharisee's house)

In whose house were they eating supper?

In comparing these accounts, what part of Jesus' body did Mary anoint?

Why did Mary do this? John 12:7, Matt. 26:12-13; Mark 14:8-9

What do we learn about the cost of this perfume?  
(It would have required a year's wages from a common laborer to purchase that ointment)

What does this say about Jesus that he would receive such a lavish anointing and expensive gift from Mary?

Why were the disciples upset about her act of love? What would they have done with this perfume?

What does it mean that she anointed his body beforehand for the burial? (Bodies are normally anointed with perfumes after death)

What followed the anointing of Jesus?

Discuss these principles

The Lord accepts our worship of thanks

It is God's will that we give thanks (1 Thess 5:18)

Occasionally, we should give lavish gifts

We need to do what we can

Application:

In what way can you splurge on God to show your love and gratitude for His death, burial, and resurrection for you?

Mark 14:8 says that Mary "did what she could." What are you able and willing to do or give to God to express your love and thanks?