

Encountering Jesus
32. Is Jesus worth it? (John 12v1-11)

John Percival

Introduction

- *A key question*
- **Two contrasts** that show Jesus' worth:

A contrast between Mary and Judas

Lavish devotion vs. selfish greed

- *Mary's actions* (v1-3)
 - Costly
 - LavishMotivated by **love**
- *Judas's objection* (v4-6)
 - Outwardly impressive
 - Inwardly corruptMotivated by **greed**

A contrast between Lazarus and Jesus

Life vs. death

- *Lazarus* – a picture of **life** (v9-11)
- *Jesus* – the one who will **die** (v7-8)

Conclusion

- Jesus – worthy of our all?
- Contrasting outcomes (Mark 14v9, 10-11)

John 12v1-11 (NIV)

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.