

“An Extravagant Love”
John 12:1-8

Faith and Love to Christ seen in Mary’s Example

1. Faith and Love Exhibited

vv. 1-3

(1) The Setting

- Bethany, very close to Jerusalem (cf. Matt. 26: at the home of Simon the leper)
- Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and the twelve all present
- Our Lord’s death fast approaching

(2) An Act of Love and Devotion *“Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the whole house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”*

-1- Extravagant!

- A perfumed oil – from the spikenard plant – apparently imported from the Himalayas
- Its value = a year’s wages!
- The whole of the contents poured upon our Lord’s head and feet
- The whole house filled with the fragrance!

-2- Oblivious to the Opinions of Men!

- A woman!
- She wipes the Lord’s feet with her hair – humility
- A single focus here.

2. Faith and Love Opposed

vv. 4-6

(1) The complaint – voiced by Judas: *“Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”*

- *“Why this waste!?”*
- **Should have been sold and used for benevolence**

(2) The heart – open and laid bare! *“This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”*

3. Faith and Love Commended

vv. 7-8

(1) Our Lord defends His worshiper!

“Let her alone”

(2) He commends her faith

“she has kept this for the day of My burial.”

- Mary had believed our Lord when He spoke of His death!

- This act of faith and devotion would be known throughout the world! cf. Matt. 26

(3) He commends this as a matter of spiritual priority

-1- Priority of worship – of devotion to Christ. *“For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.”*

- There would be many more opportunities to attend to the needs of the poor.
- Very little opportunity left to show love and devotion to Christ in His state of humiliation.

-2- Serving the needs of others flows out of true worship and devotion to Christ

Further Application