



Sunday, March 25, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to John 12:1-10

In some ways it is comforting to know that the church has always had problems. Before Jesus even died and rose again, His followers had issues. The disciples fought amongst themselves for position. Others stated their desire to follow Jesus but never followed through on their commitments. Still others, as in this scenario, criticized those who genuinely wanted to honor Him. This means, in part, that the problems we face today are not new. In fact, they are just a demonstration that our sin is more deeply-rooted than we imagine and the work of sanctification is a long one.

But against the backdrop of a quarreling church, we see Jesus. He is kind and gentle towards those who come humbly and vulnerably to Him. But for those who choose to act out of pride or greed, He has a strong rebuke. In both actions, He is glorified. For He is not only a comforter of the weak, but He is their defender, and the avenger of sin. He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. So, in this scene, we see Jesus beautifully glorifying God the Father as He demonstrates these crucial pillars of His character.

Context

John's Gospel can basically be divided into two sections. Chapters 1-12 describe Jesus' life and ministry up until the time of the last Passover/Last Supper. Chapters 13-21 describe the events that transpired the night before He was crucified until He is raised from the dead and appears to the disciples. So, chapter 12 provides a crucial transition from all that took place before, including a reflection on the great sign Jesus performed of raising Lazarus from the dead. At this point there is a foreshadowing of the conflict between Judas and his Master, but by the next scene (chapter 13), it will be clear whom Jesus' betrayer is. But this was all part of God's grand plan (19:11).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Extravagant Love”

Read John 12:1-10

1. The Devotion of Mary
 - Her action
 - Her motive

2. The Objection of Judas
 - His verbal rebuke
 - His motive

3. A Commendation from Jesus

Mary’s devotion was:

 - Beautiful
 - Impactful
 - Unforgettable

But...

My purpose is not coronation but crucifixion.

The cross before the crown.

Discuss

- 1) What does it mean to be devoted to something/someone?
- 2) What does devotion to Jesus look like in your life?
- 3) Judas said he was upset that Mary used the perfume because he wanted it given to the poor. In reality, it was selfish because he cared more about his own personal gain. How can you know if your religious activities are rooted in a devotion to God versus a self-serving desire? How can we resist the temptation that Judas indulged?
- 4) Do you think it is common for Christians to criticize other Christians for their acts of devotion? Can you give an example of when that has happened?
- 5) How can you use this week (particularly Good Friday and Easter) to deepen your own devotion to Jesus?