

## BIBLE STUDY on JOHN (NIV) Part 18

### THE STORY OF A COSTLY GIFT



John 12 v 1 - 8

#### *Jesus Anointed at Bethany*

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany where Lazarus lived whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. 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 meant 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."

### Jesus is Worthy of All Honour

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Jewish council decided that Jesus must die. But Jesus' friends were so happy and full of praise that they put on a special supper to honour Jesus. Now Mary knows who Jesus really is. Her love for Him causes her to sacrifice costly ointment - worth probably equal to wages for 300 days' work. Mary had understood Jesus' words that He was to be crucified within a few days. (Matthew 26 v 2).

**"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for You created all things and by Your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4 v 11)**

John gives us a peek into heaven when all the redeemed from every kindred, tongue, people and nation will join with ten thousand times ten thousand angels to give praise to Jesus, **"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5 v 12)**. Jesus is worthy of all the praise and worship we can give Him!

## Gifts We Can Give Jesus

What can we give Jesus to express our grateful worship? Paul says, **"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will."** (Romans 12 v 1, 2) Let us give our bodies to Jesus by living to please Him. Let us give our minds to Him, to think on His name, His Word and His works instead of thinking about things of the world.

Of course, some may think you are wasting your life and talents by serving God. Didn't Judas think that Mary's sacrificial gift was wasted? But where is Judas today? **"The memory of the righteous will be blessing but the name of the wicked will rot."** (Proverbs 10 v 7). **"... a righteous man will be remembered forever."** (Psalm 116 v 6b).

When we show our love to Christian brothers, we honour the Christ who lives in them. Do you treat your Christian parents, spouse (husband or wife) or children as you would treat Jesus? We also honour Jesus when we love our enemies because He asked us to do so (Matthew 5 v 44).

Christ loved us so much; He gave Himself for *us* **"a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."** (Ephesians 5 v 2) **"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that confess His name."** (Hebrews 13 v 15).