

October 12, 2014

“How We See Jesus—Changes Everything!”

Mark 14:1-11

CORE: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” — **A.W. Tozer**

This is a story of huge contrasts! Jesus was surrounded by lots of people with lots of differing opinions about Him. Yet, one woman’s response stands out far above the crowd. Seeing Jesus as He is—changed everything in her life!

THE SETTING-

- **“PASSOVER”- (Exodus 12) remembering the last plague in Egypt—death of 1st born sons. Yet, death “passed over” every home marked by the blood of a lamb. (*Foreshadow of Jesus, the Lamb, giving His life—to give us life- John 10:10*)**
- **“Home of Simon the Leper” in the town of Bethany (*hometown of Mary, Martha & Lazarus*)**
 - **Healed by Jesus (*Pharisees wouldn’t go near someone w/ leprosy*)**
 - **His infirmity had become his identity**
 - **Jesus honored him (by going to his house for dinner). He loves to defy & destroy “labels.”**

1. THE PHARISEES- opposed Him; despised Him; sought to kill Him

(NOTE: Because of the Feasts of Passover & Unleavened Bread—Jerusalem swelled from 50,000 people to 250,00 people! Afraid of starting a riot!)

- **No middle ground w/ Jesus—either precious or offensive (1 Peter 2:7)**
- **Threatened by Him—He had what they didn’t: true authority (*they “lorded over” people—Jesus IS Lord.*), real compassion, and LIFE (*He exposed their lifeless religious forms*)!**
- **They sought to eliminate Him—He was messing w/ their system!**

2. JUDAS- disappointed and frustrated with Jesus

- **Greedy for \$\$\$ and status**
- **Wanted Jesus to move into position of power/prestige—so he could share in it; covered it with “concern for the poor” (Deut. 15:11)**
- **Mary’s extravagant expression of worship—expensive ointment, imported from India, worth one year’s wage—grated against his greedy heart. Pushed him over the edge.**
- **He turned Jesus over to a religious system that despised Him.**

3. **THE DISCIPLES-** distrusted Jesus; sought to “manage” Him (NOTE: Fear & control go hand-in-hand)
 - In the home of a man Jesus healed of leprosy—also with Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead!
 - Their cynical, skeptical attitudes blinded them to His brilliance.
 - Therefore, they could not understand Mary’s extravagant worship and abandoned adoration of Jesus.

4. **MARY OF BETHANY-** pure, abandoned worship; heart filled with adoration and wonder (NOTE: She had to work thru her own disappointments and frustrations with Jesus @ Lazarus’ death)
 - Her worship was costly. **Extravagant.** One year’s wage worth of pure ointment. (NOTE: She also supported His ministry (Luke 8:1-3))
 - What offended others—**deeply touched Jesus’ heart.** (What they saw as a “waste”—Jesus received as worship) Fragrance of worship filled room
 - Mary was unaware of how deeply she ministered to Jesus—**anointing Him for His burial (Adoration opens us to revelation!)**

NOTE: Everyone else despised this expression of worship—yet Jesus said, “Everywhere the Gospel is preached, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her!”

Luke 7- “Those who are forgiven much—love much!” (NOTE: Everyone has been forgiven much!)

CONCLUSIONS:

1. What you “set your affections on”—you move toward, sacrifice for, see the worth of. What you focus on—you get closer to.
2. We have a choice RE: what captures our minds/hearts.
 - a. Lot (2 Peter 2:7), though “righteous,” allowed the cultural climate to “crush his spirit” and “torment his soul”; “acute mental distress” (J.B. Phillips); “greatly worn out” (Ampl.)
 - b. Abraham, though lived in same environment AND received a promise from God that defied all logic: “He didn’t tiptoe around God’s promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said.” (Romans 4:20 MSG)
3. **EXPERIENCE HIS EXTRAVAGANCE! And so LIVE EXTRAVAGANTLY!**
 - a. He does “more than enough; pressed down/running over”
 - b. We can’t exhaust His endless supply of anointing & grace
 - c. As we hear His voice—He builds faith, not trauma!
 - d. As we really see Jesus—we will worship Him extravagantly!