

# John 12:1-36

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*We see in this passage three essentials for the church: New life in Christ, worship and adoration, and service.*

# Overview

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- The Sacrifice of Service
- The Sacrifice of Possessions
- The Sacrifice of Glory
- The Aroma of Sacrifice
- The Sacrifice of Praise
- The Call to Sacrifice
- The Honor of Sacrifice
- The Sacrifice of Jesus

# The Sacrifice of Service (1-2)

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- Jesus came to serve (Mt 20:28)
- We are saved to serve (Eph 2:10)
- We are exhorted to serve (1Pe 4:10-11)
- Though service is important, it is not the most important thing (Lk 10:38-42)

# The Sacrifice of Possessions (3,5)

*Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard,  
an expensive perfume; she poured it on  
Jesus' feet (v.3)*

☉ The perfume was expensive, worth a  
year's wages (vv.3,5)

*While the king was at his table,  
my perfume spread its fragrance.  
Song of Solomon 1:12*

# The Sacrifice of Glory (3)

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*and wiped his feet with her hair (v.3)*

- Mary sat humbly at Jesus's feet (here and in Lk 10:39)
- She wiped His feet with her hair, which is her glory (1Co 11:14-15)

# The Aroma of Sacrifice (3)

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*And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume (v.3)*

- Our gifts of sacrifice are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God (Phil 4:18)
- Christ gave Himself up as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Eph 5:2)
- Jesus cleanses us and makes us smell good (2Co 2:14,16)

# The Aroma of Sacrifice (4-8)

*The Disapproval of Those Who Found No Worth In Jesus*

*But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected (v.4)*

○ It was not only Judas who objected, but also the other disciples (Mt 26:8)

○ The others present not only called it a "waste" but also "rebuked her harshly." (Mk 14:4-5)

*The idea of waste only comes into our Christianity when we underestimate the worth of our Lord. [Watchman Nee]*

*The main problem with Judas is not that he cared nothing for the poor. Rather, the main problem is that he cared nothing for Jesus.*

# The Sacrifice of Praise (12-19)

## *The Triumphal Entry*

*They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" (v. 13)*

### ☉ God is worthy of praise

- *Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. (Ps 145:3)*
- *Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (Lk 19:39-40)*

### ☉ It is appropriate and fitting to praise God

- *Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. (Ps 33:1)*
- *Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! (Ps 147:1)*



# The Call to Sacrifice (v.26)

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*Whoever serves me must follow me (v.26)*

- Here Jesus tells us to follow Him. Notice that as He says this, He is on His way to the cross.
- Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. (Ro 12:1)

# The Honor of Sacrifice (v.26)

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*My Father will honor the one who serves me. (v.26)*

- Mary will be remembered and honored wherever the gospel is proclaimed
  - *I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." (Mk 14:9)*
- The account of Mary belongs with the gospel because it shows what the gospel is intended to produce. Mary's life shows the result of the gospel.
- 1 Samuel 2:30 illustrates the difference between Mary and Judas
  - *Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.*

# The Sacrifice of Jesus

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*But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." (v.32)*

- The word for draw (Greek *ηελκο*) is also used in Jn 21:11 where it is rendered “drag”
- Jesus laid down His life in order to draw men to Himself. This is the supreme sacrifice.
- This shows the worth Jesus ascribed to us
- We then are called to ascribe this same worth to Him and even greater worth, for Who He is, not merely for what He has done

# Summary

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- The Sacrifice of Possessions
- The Sacrifice of Glory
- The Aroma of Sacrifice
- The Sacrifice of Praise
- The Call to Sacrifice
- The Honor of Sacrifice
- The Sacrifice of Jesus

# Bibliography

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