

JOHN

Chapter 12

Note from Kathy

Have you ever wondered what you could give Jesus to say thank you for all he has done for you? You may be like me—you look back at some of your younger years when living for self seemed so natural. But now that person seems so foolish and misled. A life lived for self will never fulfill anyone. We have not been created to live for self. We were created by God to worship him and bring him glory. Our time on earth is limited. Let's be purposeful in all we do. Keep that in mind as you study John 12 this week, and let's look for ways to bring God glory.

Observation

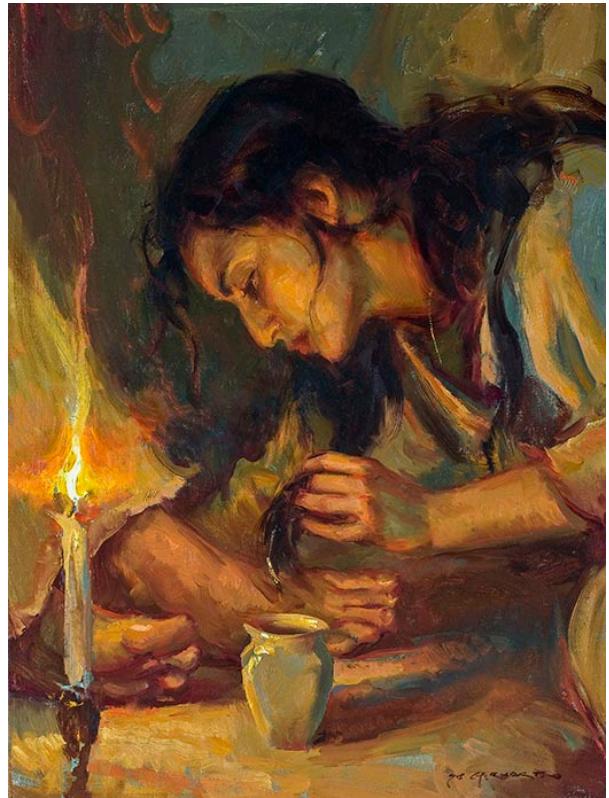
1. It was now 6 days prior to Passover. In what city did we find Jesus and his disciples, and why were they there?

2. What were these people doing in verses 3-4?

Martha:

Lazarus:

Mary:



3. In your Bible read Mark 14:3-9 and Matthew 26:6-11. What additional information do we learn from Mark and Matthew's accounts of Mary's actions?

4. Judas argued that Mary's perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor. Noble sounding words, but what was the truth? What was Judas implying by saying this?

5. Jesus reminded them of the importance of following the promptings of God. Jesus knew his time was coming to an end. What did he say concerning deeds that could be done for the poor?

6. A large crowd was beginning to gather that day. According to verse 9, what was the two-fold reason they came?
 - a.
 - b.
7. The chief priests were the elite leaders of the Jewish priesthood. When they saw the crowd and all that was happening what did they make plans to do?
8. The next day the crowd heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. This was the chance many had waited for.

What did the crowd do?

What did the crowd say?
9. It is often said that hindsight is 20/20. The disciples did not always understand everything Jesus said and did. Later, after his resurrection, what did they realize?
 - a.
 - b.
10. Those who had witnessed Jesus' miracles continued telling others what they had seen. What were the positive and the negative results from their shared testimony?
11. Once again in John 12:28 we see the Father's words recorded. What were the words that came from heaven that day?
12. What did the crowd mistakenly think they had heard?
13. As you read John 12:37-42 what was the reason given as to why so many of the religious leaders felt they could not openly profess their faith in Jesus?

Matthew 10:32-33

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

- Read Matthew 10:32-33. Is there really such a thing as a silent follower of Jesus?
14. Even though Jesus clearly stated that he did not come to judge the world, there will be a day and time of judgment. What was Jesus' purpose in coming, according to verse 47?

Application

1. What are some of the character qualities you see in Mary, Martha and Lazarus? After you list them, circle the ones you would like to see more of in your own heart and life.

Mary	Martha	Lazarus

2. Mary poured a pint of extremely expensive perfume on Jesus and began wiping his feet with her hair. Could the phrase, "reckless abandon" be used to describe her actions? Reckless abandon is defined as giving with no thought to self and without a thought to the consequences of this action. Share a time when you or someone you know sacrificed for Jesus in such a way it could be classified as reckless abandon.
3. Of course it is not surprising someone would raise objection to this act of worship. Mary was carrying out a divine purpose and plan as Jesus explained in spite of Judas' and the disciples' reactions. Are you willing to stand up to opposition if your heavenly Father calls you to do something that has the likelihood of being ridiculed? What Bible verse or verses could you memorize that would help you in that kind of situation? Share your verses with your small group, and, consider committing them to memory.
4. A few years ago, I heard a song on the radio, "Need you Now" by Plumb. The lyrics said, "...everybody's got a story to tell and everybody's got a wound to be healed..." It was true in Jesus' day and it is true today. When we share our story of all Jesus has done in our life it will draw others to Him. They will want to meet Jesus. If you only had a few minutes, in the side column, write what would you want to say about Jesus in your life?
5. In verse 26 Jesus says, "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be." It's important to periodically check our course. Look back over your schedule from last week. How did you spend your time?

How much time each week do you devote to or spend with your heavenly Father and doing things of eternal value?

Do not misunderstand me, when we serve others we can be serving Jesus. But, you can tell the level of importance something has in a person's life by how much time they devote to it. Where does your relationship with the Lord rank in your life, and does that ranking reflect how you feel?

6. What do you believe Jesus meant when he said a person who loves him must lose their life? In what way were you able to personalize this? How does a person know if they love him in this way?
7. There are many in the world who will not hear God's voice. It is impossible for them to have a clear understanding, because they have chosen to ignore him. Does this let us off the hook for sharing the good news as disciples of Christ? Share some ways you are allowing the light of Jesus to shine through you.

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

Read Matthew 28:19-20 for the task God has given us to do. What is our commission?

8. Many in the crowd had trouble hearing that Jesus was not going to set up a traditional, earthly kingdom right then, and rule and reign. They believed this to be in the Scriptures, but they missed the verses that told of his suffering and death. We must be careful not to place our Lord in a box. Can you think of ways someone might have Jesus in a box that is not Scripturally sound, but a savior of their own design?
9. This is our last week together this semester. What will you take away from the study of John 12? How are you different because of the time you spent in John's gospel?
10. John not only wanted the reader to come to a saving faith in Jesus but also to have a rich, well-informed faith. Now that you have studied these first 12 chapters, who do you say Jesus is? By placing our trust in him, what can we have?
11. Several times in our study we have taken time to look at the "I Am" statements of Christ. How have these statements helped you get to know the Lord better? Which one has significant meaning to you at this time, and why?