

# **Who Do You Love?**

**7-7-24**

**One week before Jesus would be crucified, Jesus has dinner with Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. During the dinner, Mary demonstrates her love for Jesus.**

John 12:3 (NIV) **O/H**

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.

**In Biblical times, it was the custom for people to clean their feet with water when they entered someone's home. Mary's selfless act of devotion of pouring perfume worth a year's wages on Jesus' feet and then wiping them off with her hair expresses deep honor and love. She most certainly is thankful for Jesus raising her brother Lazarus from the dead, but the true depth of her love "comes from" the reality that Jesus also loves her with all HIS heart. As the Bible says:**

1 John 4:19 (ESV)

We love because Jesus first loved us.

**The sweet aroma of the perfume filling the room is lingering evidence of her complete love for Jesus. Our love for Jesus also is like the sweet aroma of perfume that accompanies us and inhaled by all those around us.**

2Corinthians 2:14-16 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup>Thanks be to God, who ... uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. <sup>15</sup>For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup>To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life.

**We are an aroma of Jesus.** However, without understanding Jesus' love for us, we can only see finite human benefits that tie us to this perishing world. Thus, like Judas we may object to Mary's seemingly wastefulness.

John 12:5 (NIV)

Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.

**Truly this gift was worth a year's wages, but Jesus sternly rebuked Judas for his inability to see beyond his worldview.**

John 12:7-8 (NIV) **V.7 O/H**

<sup>7</sup>"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of MY burial. <sup>8</sup>You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have ME."

**Mary's action was a beautiful expression of her love and devotion to Jesus. Within the week, Jesus will be grieving in Gethsemane and then be crucified at Golgotha. **I believe that Mary understood what lay ahead.** In addition, Mary's act was understood by Jesus as an anointing of HIS body beforehand in preparation for HIS burial. **It is possible that Mary had a greater sensitivity to what was about to happen to Jesus than even HIS Twelve did.** Jesus had foretold them of HIS death. **It would not be surprising that Mary was aware of the impending death of Jesus.** Therefore, she was moved to give a valuable material expression of her esteem for him. Mark beautifully records this event.**

Mark 14:6–8 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup> For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.

**Another Lady deeply aware of her own sinfulness who heard of Jesus’ love and forgiveness showed a similar devotion and love for Jesus. Jesus had been invited to a meal in a religious leader’s house named Simon. Uninvited she came into the house and stood behind Jesus.**

Luke 7:38 (NIV) **O/H**

As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

Luke 7:44-47 (NIV)

Then Jesus turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown.” (Now Jesus gives a little in your face to Simon.) **Jesus says, “But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” Ouch!**

**These ladies give us an example of devotion and love “due” the Lord Jesus Christ. When we understand how much Jesus loves us, similar devotion and love will be evidenced in our own lives. Ladies, I do believe God has given you an unique sensitivity to worship and love that reflects the heart of Jesus. As men we should honor and protect that sensitivity. However, this is not limited to the ladies. Jesus asks us all “Who Do You Love?”**

Matthew 22:36–40 (NIV)

<sup>36</sup>Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?

<sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets **hang** on these two commandments.”

**This is the only “work” necessary for believers. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself. All the “Bible” HANG on these two commandments and this is a sweet aroma to God.**

**All the craziness of this world immediately clears up when we determine “Who do we love?” Remember God loved us first!**

John 3:16 (ESV) **O/H**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.