



## *Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 30*

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 12:1-11

### Summary:

As Jesus comes up to Jerusalem for the Passover feast, he stays in Bethany, where Mary, Marth, and Lazarus live. At a dinner given by that grateful family in Jesus' honor, Mary shows great reverence for Jesus by anointing his feet with expensive ointment and wiping them with her hair. There follows a sharp contrast between Mary's self-sacrificial love for Jesus and Judas' self-centered and deceptive "concern" for the poor and disadvantaged. Although she didn't know it, Mary was in fact preparing Jesus in advance for his burial – as Jesus' presence near Jerusalem became known and many continued to believe, Jesus' enemies became more determined than ever to stamp out his message for good.

### Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. What was Jesus doing in Bethany? What's significant about this location (both in relation to events that had occurred already and events about to occur)?
3. Why did Mary, Martha, and Lazarus give a dinner for Jesus? **Application:** What does it look like for you to celebrate Jesus and show gratitude for all he's done?

4. How do you understand Mary's action towards Jesus (v. 3)? What was she trying to do for him?
  
5. Why was Judas so angry? What concern of his is it that Mary "wasted" the ointment? **Application:** Can you see any part of yourself in Judas here? What might make us respond negatively in the light of other people's way of worshiping?
  
6. Why do you think John highlights the fact that Judas was to betray Jesus (v. 4)?
  
7. Why is Judas' objection to Mary's act not valid? What was his objection really about? **Application:** How might this kind of thinking creep into our own lives and the way we approach others? In other words, how can we try to express sinful or selfish attitudes in words that sound honorable or legitimate, especially in religious contexts?
  
8. What did Jesus mean by saying, "...the poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me," (v. 7)? Was he being dismissive or callous toward the plight of the poor?
  
9. How does Jesus' popularity increase the urgency of his enemies?
  
10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?