

# **All Eyes On Jesus**

## **January 13, 2019 – Billy Humphrey**

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### **I. Not Business as Usual**

A. This last week has been special. God has been moving among us in a unique way.

1. Several hundred attended and were baptized at the North Ga. Revival on Sunday night
2. Several hundred more participated in prayer and fasting meetings Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday for our monthly fast.
3. God began to move in profound ways, with tears, joy, and much authentic openhearted repentance.

B. We are now asking the Lord to increase and deepen the work He is doing among us.

C. We are going to love Jesus firstly and mostly in all that we do. Hosting His presence and making room for His activity.

D. We are going to live with urgency for the hour, preparing our hearts and others for the return of the Lord.

E. We are going to walk in freehearted, love and honor as family. Not missing out on the gift of God in others because of our familiarity.

### **II. Mary's Extravagance**

**Mark 14:1-9** After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death. 2 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people." 3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. 4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply. 6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. 7 For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. 8 She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. 9 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." (Mat 26:1-13, John 12:1-8)

A. The alabaster box with the oil in it was likely worth a year's wages. The oil was spikenard or "pure nard"

B. There are at least four groups of people in this passage:

1. The living testimonies
2. The religious leaders

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3. The disciples
4. The extravagant

C. Lazarus and Simon were living testimonies of the love and power of Jesus. They were clear emblems of Jesus deity.

D. The religious leaders were plotting to kill Lazarus and Jesus. They were so choked by the religious spirit that they wanted not only to kill Jesus, but also kill any evidence of His power and love (John 12:9)

E. The disciples act in the way that most would not suspect. They had been with Jesus from the beginning. They had personally seen people healed and delivered. They were celebrating Jesus healing power with Lazarus and Simon. And at the same time they were as dangerous as the religious leaders.

F. Mary was not the only extravagant one. It was Mary and Jesus. Mary's act of complete and utter abandoned love and worship was celebrated and memorialized by Jesus. He was the only one who could receive the gift of her love in this extravagant way, because He too is extravagant.

### **III. Abandoned Worship Exposes the Religious Spirit**

A. It's easy for us to identify the religious spirit in the chief priests and scribes. They hated Jesus. They were jealous and ultimately wanted to murder Jesus and Lazarus. The challenge is when the religious spirit shows up in "spiritual" people.

B. The disciples were comfortable with everything as long as it neatly fit into their own paradigm. But each of us has a point where our own interests get crossed. All the sudden things are not in our favor, not for our benefit. It's in that moment that we have to decide whether we are willing to bear the reproach of an abandoned life of love for Jesus or whether radical abandonment to Him is just too much.

C. The disciples were indignant and criticized her sharply. John identifies that Judas was the main one making the point that the oil should have been sold and given to the poor. But Mark identified that there were others and Matthew specifically says these others were the disciples (Mat 26:8).

D. It was immediately after this act of worship that Judas went to the chief priests to betray Jesus (Mar 14:10-11, Mat 26:14-16).

E. No one was upset with Martha's distant heart amidst her much serving. Everyone was upset with Mary's extravagance in abandoned worship.

F. God is calling all of us out of a Martha spirit and into a Mary spirit.