

A Worship Worth Giving ***(John 12:1-8)***

The supreme duty of every creature of God for time and eternity is to worship Him (Psalm 95:6-7; 96:9; 29:2). Worship means to honor and adore God. We were created to worship God and to enjoy Him forever (Psalm 16:8-9). God commands and seeks worship (John 4:23-24) from His people (1 Peter 2:9, cf. Heb. 13:15; Psalm 34:1).

Mary's anointing of Jesus is a demonstration of the kind of worship that our Lord longs for and delights in.

1. *Her Worship was* _____

Mary came to Jesus with a bottle of genuine oil or perfume and anointed the Lord with it. It was her way of showing what was in her heart. She was responding to who Jesus is and what He has done. She knew that Jesus was God who became flesh. And so she worshipped Him by giving her an expensive gift. Worship to be truly pleasing and acceptable to the Lord, must cost us something.

2. *Her Worship was* _____

Mary herself poured the expensive perfume on Jesus. It would have been perfectly alright if she asked one of the servants to do that. Instead she did it herself. Acceptable worship before God is a personal sacrificial worship (ex. 2 Sam. 24:22-24). Those who love Christ truly, love Him so much more than this world, as to be willing to sacrificially lay down the best that they have for Him (like Abraham laying down Isaac at the altar).

Mary anointed the feet of Jesus publicly; at the expense of her pride and dignity. She was not ashamed to acknowledge that Jesus was her Lord (Matt. 10:32). She wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair (the very symbol of her dignity – 1 Cor. 11:15; cf. Rev. 4:10).

3. *Her Worship was* _____

Jesus understood what Mary was doing, but more importantly, Mary understood what she was doing. In spite of Jesus repeated teaching about His impending death (cf. Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:32), His disciples didn't get it. But Mary did. She understood that Jesus was going to die in the place of sinners like her, for her redemption. Pouring that expensive perfume on Jesus was her way of saying that the greatest worship is to understand that God gave the most precious gift of all (in the life of His Son), so that we may have access to God to worship and adore Him for what He has done.

Like Mary, when our hearts are constantly engaged in this act of worship, God can begin to use us as channels of His fragrance - a sweet-smelling aroma before the people around us (Eph. 5:2, 2 Cor. 2:15). But this will only be true when our lives are fully given to God (Romans 12:1). And when that happens, God will not only be pleased with what we do. He will be pleased with us.