

Worship or Waste?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 11:55-12:10.

B. John was highly selective about the stories of Jesus he told.

II. People came to the Passover feast looking for Jesus.

A. People wanted to see whether Jesus would defy the Jewish leaders and come to the feast.

B. The people were unsure as to whether Jesus would come or not.

C. The name of Jesus still has tremendous drawing power.

D. Groups that wanted to hear more about Jesus.

1. The curious.

2. The committed.

a. Those who served. Martha's service to the Lord was a legitimate form of worship.

b. Those that were with Jesus. Lazarus was content to be with Jesus and rejoice in His companionship, which is also a form of worship.

c. Those that show deep appreciation.

1) Mary of Bethany realized the great blessing and glory of what God had done for her.

2) She spared no expense, cared nothing for custom, and she openly without reserve expressed herself in love for Jesus.

3) Worship is a heart transformed that expresses itself no matter the cost.

3. The counterfeit.

a. These believe that Christian faith and practice are a waste of time.

b. Many Christians view worship as a waste of time.

c. We live in an age devoted to the externals.

E. Worship is reminding oneself how much Jesus means.

F. Worship is a heart that has been blessed by God and expresses its gratitude continually.

Application questions:

1. Which group of responders to Jesus do you fall in most of the time? Explain.

2. What is worship? What are the different ways Jesus can be worshiped?

3. How might a person express gratitude toward Jesus in a similar way as Mary did today? Explain.
