

Filling the House with Worship

John 12: 1-9

In the eyes of believers, this is one of the most beautiful passages in Scripture. The setting for this gathering is in the house of Simon the leper, [Mk.14:3](#). The guest list is quite impressive. They are gathered in the home of a man who has been healed of the dreaded disease of leprosy. Lazarus is there whom Jesus raised from the dead, along with his two sisters, Martha and Mary. Jesus had been invited with His disciples.

In such a gathering it would be easy to focus on the miracles rather than the Miracle Worker. Many had come to see Lazarus alive and well, but Mary had come to spend time with the Lord. She is mentioned three times in Scripture and each time she is found at the feet of Jesus. Of all that were there that day, Mary appears to be the only one who has a heart for worship.

Today I would like to spend a few moments considering the life of a woman who had her priorities in order. She lived a life that bore a tremendous testimony for the Lord. I want to preach on the thought: [Filling the House with Worship](#). In these verses Mary's life reveals several [aspects](#) of heart-felt worship.

I. The Abundance of Her Worship (3a) – We know that Mary was a guest in the home of Simon, but she brought more abundant worship than any of the others. The events that are unfolding here are just prior to the Lord's crucifixion and Mary has come to offer all that she can for her Lord. She took a pound of spikenard ointment and anointed the feet of Jesus. This was a tremendous sacrifice on the part of Mary.

- The ointment was valued at 300 hundred pence, a year's salary. A pence in that day was a days' wages. It was one of the most prized possessions that a person owned. Many would spend a lifetime acquiring enough money to purchase the ointment needed for their own burial. Mary had likely given all that she possessed in an offering to the Lord. She had sacrificed greatly to anoint His body prior to His death and burial. Mary spared no expense. She didn't offer a small portion of the ointment, but she broke it open and poured all that she had upon the Lord.

- What a beautiful picture of sacrifice for the Lord. Mary literally poured out all of her being for the Lord. Jesus deserves the abundance of our worship. We ought to give Him all that we have, all that we possess. How many of us have poured out all of our existence

unto the Lord? True worship must be abundant worship; it must be a sacrificial worship.

▪ Many today are unwilling to pay the price for real worship. Jesus must be the priority of our lives. He must be the desire of our hearts! [Rom.12:1 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.](#) What type of worship are you offering today? The Lord is worthy of all we can give and more. He deserves the sacrifice of our time, the service of our talents, and the support of our tithes. Your worship will have little impact on your life if it isn't abundant worship.

I. The Abundance of Her Worship (3a)

II. The Attitude of Her Worship (3b) – As I said, Mary is always found at the feet of Jesus. She has humbled herself before the Lord and is anointing His precious feet with the valuable ointment. Her devotion is so great that she wipes His feet with the hair of her head. She was totally unconcerned about what others thought of her. She was determined to worship regardless of what

others thought. She had assumed the position of a slave as she washed and anointed the Master's feet.

- Many had come to see the One who had performed such miracles, but Mary saw the Lord in a different light. Yes He was the Miracle Worker, but He was much more than that to her. Jesus was her Lord and Master. She was looking beyond the meal that they shared. She was looking ahead to the cross, the death He would die, and the burial that would follow. She wanted to do all she could prior to the Lord's great sacrifice.

- You see Mary had experienced the mighty power of Jesus as He called for her brother to come forth from the grave, but there was something that went beyond what had happened to Lazarus. I believe that Mary had trusted in Christ as the Messiah. She believed that He was the Savior of the world. In His presence she humbled herself before Him.

- We must develop that attitude of worship. Jesus has done great things for us, but nothing exceeds the sacrifice that He made that we might be saved. As you come before Christ, come humbly, mindful of all that He has done for you! Mary had given her all and she isn't looking around to see who has noticed; she is humbly

bowed at Jesus' feet. How is your attitude of worship? Have you come today to honor the Lord and thank Him for what He has done? Are you willing to submit your life unto the Lord, whatever the cost?

I. The Abundance of Her Worship (3a)

II. The Attitude of Her Worship (3b)

III. The Aroma of Her Worship (3c; 9) – There must have been a large gathering at the home of Simon. As Mary anointed Jesus, the fragrance of the ointment filled the house. Can you imagine the scene of that day? As the people began to gather at the home of Simon a sweet fragrance filled the air. They had come to catch a glimpse of those who had been healed and of the One who had performed these wondrous miracles.

- As they stepped through the door they caught the fragrance. As they moved closer to the place where the Lord was sitting, the fragrance grew stronger. No doubt it was soon apparent that the beautiful smell was coming from the Lord. Mary had offered her worship and the aroma of that worship pointed to the Lord. In her act of obedience she drew attention to the Lord whom she loved.

- What kind of fragrance does our worship reveal? Is it something pleasant that draws attention to the Lord or is something that has no fragrance at all? I pray that our worship doesn't send forth a fragrance that would hinder others from drawing nigh to the Lord. Mary's worship didn't send forth a stench, her worship declared, "Here is the Lord; He is the One that you need to see and recognize. This is the Messiah, my King!"

- Worship is a thing of beauty unto the Lord. It offers a sweet smell unto Him. May we let the aroma of our worship fill the house of God each time that we gather? I pray that it will well up in our souls and resound with the praises of God!

- May we live in such a way that our worship points folks to the darling Son of God? Let the fragrance of worship serve as a testimony to all that Jesus has done for us!

I. The Abundance of Her Worship (3a)

II. The Attitude of Her Worship (3b)

III. The Aroma of Her Worship (3c; 9)

IV. The Assumption of Her Worship (4-5)

IV. The Assumption of Her Worship (4-5) – It doesn't take long for the critics to show up. I don't see anyone else ministering unto Jesus in this passage, but there are those who are quick to criticize her act of devotion and love. Judas, the betrayer, sees this as an act of extravagant excess rather than devoted worship. He is only concerned with the value of the ointment, which in his mind, has been wasted. We must remember that Judas was one of the twelve, but he had never recognized Christ as Lord.

- We can't expect those who don't know Christ to understand our worship. The world doesn't see why we do what we do. Why would anyone give of themselves unto the Lord as we do? Why would we live our lives in submission to God?
- Mary offered genuine worship and adoration and yet she was ridiculed for her offering. Each of those present had plenty of reason to worship the Lord, but rather than offering any worship themselves, there was only criticism of Mary. Simon had been healed of leprosy, Lazarus had been raised from the dead, Martha was also Lazarus' brother and should have been thankful, eleven of the disciples had come to know Jesus as Lord, Judas was one of the 12 who desperately needed to see Christ as

the Savior, and yet all of these see no need to honor the Lord. There may have been criticism and doubt, but Mary had determined in her heart to honor the Lord with all that she had.

- There will be times when the world is critical of our worship. There will be times when you are looked upon as strange or fanatical, but even then we must continue to worship our Lord. I don't know what all Jesus has done for you, but I know what He has done for me! I have every reason to worship Him today.

- Were it not for the loving favor and grace of my Lord I would still be dead in trespasses and sin. He has given me life abundantly and forgiven my sin. Let the world call me a fanatic; let them criticize and ridicule my faith; I will worship the Lord anyhow! I don't expect them to understand, but I can't let that hinder me from giving my Lord the praise He is due!

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V. The Approval of Her Worship (7-8) – Here we find that Judas may have objected and the others may have been unconcerned, but her act of devotion didn't go unnoticed. Jesus came to her defense. She was one of His and Jesus wanted them to know that He was mindful of her sacrifice. Of all who knew Jesus, Mary was the only one who offered any compassion for His coming crucifixion and death. She alone seemed to know what was coming and she did what she could.

- In Mark's gospel Jesus declares that Mary will never be forgotten for her act of devotion. **Mk.14:9 – Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.**

Some 2,000 years later we are still talking about the worship of Mary. Her act of devotion serves as a testimony and challenge for those who follow the Lord.

- It doesn't really matter what the world thinks of our worship. It doesn't matter whether they approve, what matters is that Jesus is lifted up and magnified! The world may not notice or care, but Jesus is keeping a record. He is aware of each time we come before Him with a heart of worship.

- A heart of devotion and a life lived for the Lord is the greatest thing that we can leave our families. It will far outweigh the material possessions of this life. I want to challenge each of you, whether you are a young or old, you can make an impact on others and influence them to live for the Lord. Wouldn't it be great to be remembered most for your love and devotion to the Lord? A godly inheritance is far more valuable than a box of ointment or money in the bank!

What kind of worship have you offered unto the Lord? Is He not worthy of all that we can bring before Him? Jesus wants to be the priority of our lives. We need to be willing and ready to worship as Mary did. She gave all that she had; she literally poured out her existence unto the Lord.

How long has it been since you've spent some time at the feet of Jesus? Are you willing to submit yourself in service unto Him regardless of what others think? Why not come today and offer the sweet smelling aroma of worship unto the Lord and thank Him for all he has done for you? We need to fill His house with the sweet odour of worship!