

INDESCRIBABLE SERIES #4
AT THE FEET OF JESUS
DR. ROGER BARRIER
JUNE 29-2008
LUKE 10: 38-39; JOHN 11:32; JOHN 12:3
S-1759

This morning we conclude our five-week series on Praise and Worship. Next Sunday we will turn to the Psalms and experience for the next five weeks how God is greater than our doubts, struggles and some of the puzzling issues of life.

Today we will learn from the worship experiences of Mary of Bethany. She is mentioned only three times in the New Testament; and every time we find her in the same place—kneeling at the feet of Jesus.

Luke 10:39: She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

John 11:32: When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

John 12: 3: Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it out on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

In Luke 10 she found at His feet her BLESSING.

In John 11 she brought to His feet her BURDEN.

In John 12 she gave at His feet her BEST.

Mary illustrates Philippians 3:10—the key verse for becoming like Christ:

"That I may know Him" (That's Luke 10 receiving a blessing.).

"And the power of His resurrection" (That's John 11 bringing her burden.).

"And the fellowship of His sufferings" (That's John 12 giving her best.).

Mary was having a "Relationship with Jesus Christ." Religion is something you do.

Relationship is Someone you experience.

A short review of the last several weeks' sermons reveal that Mary's three experiences provide an outward manifestation of the inner experience of worship.

The purpose of praise and thanksgiving is to lead us into the throne room (Psalm 100:4).

Praise is (1) recalling God's mighty acts of power; (2) reciting the marvelous aspects of God's character; and (3) thanking Him both for His actions and for His character.

Worship is (1) Falling Down before the throne (Ps. 95:6; Mat. 4:8-9) (*receiving the blessing*);

(2) Casting Down our crowns (Revelation 4:10) (*bringing the burden*); and (3)

Acknowledging the worth of Jesus Christ (Revelation 4:11) (*giving our best*).

SHE FOUND AT HIS FEET HER BLESSING (Luke 10:38-39).

We are talking here about satisfying the ultimate longing of life.

The big question that we have to answer is: "Where do I get my blessing?"

Mary's sister Martha was not a very happy person. The Bible portrayed her as worried, harried and anxious (Luke 10:40). America is a land of *Marthas*.

Dr. Alan Redpath: "Beware the barrenness of a busy life."

What might receiving a blessing at His feet look like today?

SHE BROUGHT TO HIS FEET HER BURDEN (John 11:32).

Where do you take your burdens?

Mary did not immediately run to Jesus with her burden. Mary was waiting and praying for His summons to come to her—and in verse 28 it came.

One of the great blessings of sitting at the feet of Jesus is learning how to wait. When a child of God is in the will of God and the hand of the Lord seems in no hurry, it's often because He has something better in store.

What might bringing our burdens to Him look like today?

IN JOHN 12 SHE GAVE AT HIS FEET HER BEST (John 12:3).

“The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him.” Mary knew Jesus’ secret that He was going to the cross to die.

Can you imagine that when Lazarus died Martha went to the shelf for the expensive perfume bottle and said, “I’m glad that we have this sweet smelling perfume with which to anoint his body”?

Mary replied, “No, we’re saving the best for Jesus.”

Kneeling before Jesus, pouring perfume and wiping His feet with her hair was a magnificent act of worship. This is giving our best at His feet. She gave sacrificially, lavishly and openly.

Love always costs. If our Christian lives don’t cost us anything then there’s something wrong.

What might giving our best to Jesus look like today?

BECAUSE MARY LIVED AT JESUS’ FEET, GOD USED HER TO BE A BLESSING.

In John 12 Mary blessed the whole house. The house was filled with the odor of the ointment.

In John 11 Mary blessed her friends. Mary’s friends found faith in Christ.

In Mark 19:9 Mary blessed the whole world. She is a memorial to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

This week's features on *PreachItTeachIt.org*

Podcast: "Soldier Mom": Lois Spangenburg shares her thoughts on how to love and pray for our troops (one of her sons is deployed in the Middle East and her other son just returned)

Memorial Day video: "Remembering Our Soldiers" (four Casas’ veteran's share their stories)

Last week's sermon: "Worship in the Throne Room"

This week's companion devotional: "Journey into Praise" (learning to praise through the Psalms of Ascents)

"Ask Roger" questions for the week: (1) “Does the Bible teach a seven-day creation? Can a scientist (or anyone) who believes in the scientific method reject a seven-day creation and be right (or a Christian)?” (2) “What guidelines were used to determine which books were included in the Bible—and which were excluded?”

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