

“Serve Like Jesus in Self-Giving Love”

John 12:1-8

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. **3** Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, **5** “Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.^[b]” **6** He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. **7** “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. **8** You will always have the poor among you,^[c] but you will not always have me.”

1. Mary, the sister of Lazarus whom Jesus has raised from the dead, has received much love and grace from Jesus. In John 12 she served Jesus in response to she has received. Who are you serving and what motivates you to serve?

2. Mary in her service sacrificed much. The perfume was worth a year's wages. Some (like Judas) might think that this sacrifice was too extravagant and wasted, while Mary gave without regret. When she broke the jar of perfume (Mark 14:3), she was all in. There was no turning back or withholding anything for herself. Why does she have such a different attitude or perspective than Judas?

3. What is your attitude when you serve? Do you give your all and your best?