

SERMON NOTES

Where Your Treasure Is (John 12:1-19)

Matt 6:21 – ²¹“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

John 12:1-2 - ¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.

What Treasuring Jesus Looks Like

John 12:3-5 - ³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

Matt 26:13 – “Wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be spoken of in memory of her.”

What Treasuring Wealth Looks Like

John 12:4-8 - ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

1Tim 6:10 – The love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.

What Treasuring Power Looks Like

John 12:9-11 - ⁹ When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

Hab 2:12 – Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed.

What Treasuring a Better Life Looks Like

John 12:12-18 - ¹² The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. ¹⁸ The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Ps 118:25-26 – O Lord, we beseech You, do save (hosanna);
O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord
We have blessed you from the house of the Lord

John 12:19 - ¹⁹ So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

For Further Thought and Discussion

1. What was helpful to you in this sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What do you think of the principle in the verse "where you treasure is, there your heart will be also"? Does it provide an explanation of your motivations and your actions?
3. If you are being entirely honest with yourself, what is the treasure of your heart? What do you value most in life? What do you love above all else?
4. Read Matt 6:19-21. Why is it of utmost importance to make Jesus the treasure of our hearts?
5. How did each of these actions demonstrate Christ's love for Mary? And how do they demonstrate the same love for you?
 - He comes to her, where she lives in Bethany.
 - He teaches her even though rabbis wouldn't teach women back then.
 - He accepts her gift saying she will be remembered for it wherever the gospel is preached.
 - He defends her saying to Judas to leave her alone.

- He enters into her sorrow and weeps with her over Lazarus's death.
 - He does for her more than she hoped by raising Lazarus.
 - He will on the cross take away her sins and ours. (1John 1:7)
6. How do each of these promises demonstrate Christ's love for us?
- He will give us eternal life. (Eph 2:8)
 - He will give us Himself to be with us and in us. (John 14:23)
 - He will teach us all things through the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26)
 - He will keep accepting us and entering into our sorrow. (Ps 34:18)
 - He will keep defending us. (Rom 8:31)
 - He will keep doing more for us than we even can imagine. (Eph 3:20)
 - He will credit our faith as perfect righteousness. (Rom 4:22-25)
 - He will purchase our freedom from sin (Matt 10:45).
7. Read 1John 4:19. Why is it crucial that we know how much Christ treasures us? Why is contemplation and prayer necessary?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?