

What is the outflow of the teaching and theology of Christology? Why does Christology exist? **The purpose is so that we as believers will properly worship Christ.** What is the sum of our worship? Rom. 12:1-2, offering our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto the Lord. Worship to the Lord is offering our whole life, heart, mind, money, time, abilities, goals, dreams, ambitions, marriage, jobs, and hobbies.

>>Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 7:35, that his hope is for us to serve the Lord without distraction.

John 12:1-11 is a model of devotion and worship to the Lord. Jesus wants us to follow Him and be devoted to Him, Jn. 8:12. John chapters 13-17 details the night before Jesus' crucifixion. This passage in John 12 shows the devotion of one who values Jesus above all else. In Jesus we abide, Jn. 15:5. We must consider devotion to Him above all other relationships in life, Matt. 10:32-39.

What does Devotion Look Like?

- 1) **Mary's Act of Devotion:** V1-3, this story is also shared in Matt. 26:6-13 and Mk. 14:3-9. The nard would have been nearly a year's wages, about a pint of oil/perfume, and contained in an expensive alabaster flask. She pours it on the head and feet of Jesus. She uses her hair, which represents her glory and beauty (1 Cor. 11:15), to clean the dirty feet of her Savior. The fragrance would have filled the room, and everyone would have been affected by the fragrance of it.
- 2) **Judas's Accusation:** V4-5, Matt. 26:8-9, Judas' purpose was to be able to steal the money, not share it with the poor (V6). He used Jesus for selfish greed. Judas was plunged into ruin by his greed and desire to be rich, 1 Tim. 6:9.
- 3) **Jesus' Answer:** V7-8, Matt. 26:10, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me." She did it for the day of His burial. Mary was a learner of Christ and devoted to Him. Regarding the poor, Jesus wasn't commanding the disciples not to help the poor or to think harshly about them, but was stating that He, Himself, wouldn't always be with them, they would be able to help the poor as much as they desired.

Questions to ask ourselves:

- a. How valuable is Jesus to me?
- b. How do I share this love and devotion to Christ?
- c. If I lost everything, would He be enough? If the answer is No, why?
 - i. Likely, because we lack devotion to Christ and have too many idols.
- d. Do I follow Him for what He can do for me?

>>We can repent of our sin. We can turn to Him and follow Him. We aren't without remedy, 1 John 1:9.

- 4) **Sanhedrin's Aggression:** V9-11, they wanted to kill Jesus and Lazarus. A week later, Jesus would go to the cross as He and the Father had determined, to die for our sins. His blood would be shed and make atonement for those who were lost in sin. He would give His life for mine. When Jesus was on the cross in His last few moments, the smell of the nard would have reminded Him of this act of devotion by Mary, Matt. 26:13. He finished all that the Father had asked in loving devotion to His Father. What an example is Christ our Lord.

Further Discussion and Application

The act of Mary was given as a remembrance for us, Matt. 26:13. How does this act of Mary's impact us? What have we given up in devotion to Christ? How has our life become more Christlike over the years as we've come to know Him more?

The costly offering made by Mary is a testament to the worth she placed upon Jesus. What value do we place upon the Lord, His sacrifice for our sins, and the eternal life He has given us? Read Matthew 13:44 & 45-46. What have we found, or what has God brought us to? What is the Kingdom of God that we have found?

We cannot waste our most precious things on the Lord. What more can we give Him as an act of love and devotion? Looking at Rom. 12:1-21, how can we treat the body of Christ? What can we offer to God? How can we love those in our fellowship in ways that will declare boldly our devotion to Christ?

How can seasoned saints encourage the younger ones to live their Christian life in total devotion to the Lord? What are the blessings of a life lived in devotion to the Lord?

How can mature saints encourage others in the faith how they can overcome difficult times in life, to keep a faithful and loving marriage, to encourage their children in the Lord, and to be faithful to serve and love Christ with their whole hearts?

How does Peter's encouragement in 2 Peter 1:2-4 help us to understand devotion to the Lord? What has Jesus given us that makes it possible to forsake our idols and cares and follow Him?