

“Testimony Of Thanksgiving”
John 12:1-11

Introduction:

1. Let's Open Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To John 12 - Where:
 - As We Begin A New Chapter:
 - In Our Serious Through This Gospel:
 - We Also Come To:
 - An Extended Treatment Of:
 - The Final Week Of Jesus' Ministry!
 - Now - If You Remember From:
 - The First Couple Of Chapters:
 - John Focuses On:
 - The First Full Week Of Jesus Ministry:
 - As Well As The First Passover:
 - Jesus Attends Publically!
 - Well - From John 12-21:
 - John's Focus - As Well As Ours' - Will Be On:
 - Jesus' Final Week - As Well As:
 - The Final Passover:
 - Jesus Participates In With His Disciples!
2. And It All Begins:
 - When Jesus Returns To:
 - The Same Town Where:
 - The Events Of John 11 Took Place:
 - The Town Of Bethany!
 - Even As John Records:
 - In 12:1 - "Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead!"
 - So - After Jesus Spent A Number Of Weeks:
 - With His Disciples In:
 - The Back-Water Town Of Ephraim!
 - Jesus Returns To Bethany - And:
 - John Reminds Us That:
 - It Is The Very Place Where:
 - Jesus' Most Recent Miracle Occurred!
3. And So - The Final Week Of Jesus' Ministry:
 - "Six Days Before The Passover" - Begins!
 - And - Jesus Returned:
 - In Spite Of All The Conspiracy Against Him:
 - That Was Taking Place In 11:57!
 - Which Shows Us Even More:
 - The Courage Of Jesus!
 - The Commitment Of Jesus:
 - To His Purpose!
 - And Even - The Care Of Jesus:
 - For His Followers!
4. And So - It Is In Bethany:
 - That The Following Events Unfold:
 - 12:2-11 - "There they made him a supper; and Martha served; but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. / Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. / Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, / Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? / This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. / Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. / For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always. / Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they

might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. / But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; / Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus!"

- Now - There's A Close Connection:
 - Between The Reception Of Jesus:
 - Starting There In 12:2 - And:
 - The Return Of Jesus:
 - Found In 12:1!
 - So That - The "Supper" That Was Prepared For Jesus:
 - Was In Response To:
 - Jesus Arrival - With Jesus:
 - As The Guest Of Honor!

5. It Is Clear That:

- Many Of The People Of Bethany:
 - Were Overwhelmed With Love & Gratitude:
 - For Jesus - Because Of:
 - What He Had Done For Lazarus!
 - And - This Was Especially True:
 - For Lazarus And His Sisters:
 - Who Are The Primary Characters In This Moving Scene!
- And So - As We Explore These Verses Together:
 - We Are Going To See:
 - One Of The Best Ways To:
 - Be A Witness & A Testimony:
 - About Jesus - And What He Has Done For You!
 - And That Is:
 - Through Thanksgiving!
 - Which Is What We've Been Singing About All Morning!
 - The Testimony Of Thanksgiving!
 - Which - Does Not Always:
 - Have To Be In Word!
 - It Can Also Be Seen:
 - In Your Works!

6. And So - The First Thing That We Can See:

- From These Verses Is:

1. ***The Genuine Thankfulness:***

- By Three Siblings:
 - To Jesus - For What:
 - He Did For Them!
 - Genuine / Sincere / Heart-Felt Thankfulness!
- Now - Even Though:
 - There Were Others At This Dinner:
 - Which May Even Be The Dinner:
 - That Is Recorded In The Gospels Of Matthew & Mark!
 - John Highlights The Roles Of:
 - The Three Siblings We Were Introduced To In Chapter 11!
 - Even Martha & Mary & Lazarus!
- And - I Believe We Can See:
 - Three Ways In Which:
 - These Three Siblings:
 - Expressed Their Thankfulness:
 - And - How We Can Have A Testimony Of Thankfulness To The Lord As Well!
- And So - From 12:2 - We First Are Told About Martha!
 - "And Martha Served!"
 - Of Course - This Is Well Within The Character:
 - Of Martha - That We Learn From Luke As Well! When - Luke 10:40 - She "Was

- Cumbered About Much Serving!”
 - And Was Even Admonished By Jesus - That She Needed To Focus More On The “One Thing” That Was “Needful” For Her!
- But Here - There Is Nothing Negative:
 - Said About Her Service!
 - Because - This Time:
 - She Was Serving The Lord:
 - As Well As The Others:
 - For The Right Reason & With The Right Heart!
- She Was Serving:
 - Out Of A Genuine Thankfulness:
 - For What The Lord Had Done:
 - For Her & For Her Brother & For Her Family!
 - And - She Served:
 - Even In The Most Practical Of Ways!
 - By Giving Jesus A Meal!
- And - When You Have:
 - A Genuine Heart Of Thankfulness:
 - To The Lord - For:
 - Who He Is & What He Has Done For You!
 - You Too Can & Will:
 - Express Your Gratitude:
 - By Serving The Lord!
 - With Your Gifts!
 - With Your Life!
 - For His Glory!
- But Then - Also From 12:2 - We Are Told About Lazarus!
 - “But Lazarus Was One Of Them That Sat At The Table With Him - With Jesus!”
 - Now - We Need To Remember From 12:1 & Chapter 11:
 - That It Was Lazarus - Who “Had Been Dead, Whom (Jesus) Raised From The Dead!”
 - So - To Jesus - Lazarus Owed His Very Life!
- And Even Though:
 - Lazarus Too Was Probably Being Honored:
 - By His Sisters At This Dinner:
 - Lazarus Himself Would Have Honored Jesus:
 - By Just Sitting There & Showing To Everyone Else What Jesus Had Done For Him!
- And So - Lazarus Would Have Been Sharing:
 - Out Of A Genuine Thankfulness:
 - What Great Things:
 - Jesus Had Done For Him!
- And - When You Have:
 - A Genuine Heart Of Thankfulness:
 - To The Lord - For:
 - The New Life He Has Given You:
 - Through The Gospel!
 - Through The Good News:
 - Of His Life & Death & Resurrection!
 - You Too Can & Will:
 - Express Your Gratitude:
 - By Sharing The Lord:
 - With Others!
- But Then - As We Come To 12:3 - John’s Focus Turns To:
 - The Other Sister - Mary:
 - “Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment!”
 - Now - When Special Guests Entered Into A Jewish Home In Those Days:
 - It Was The Role Of A Servant:

- To Attend To Those Guests!
- And One Of The Servant's Responsibilities Was To:
 - Wash Their Feet With Water:
 - To Clean Them & To Refresh Them From The Hard & Dusty Roads!
- And - This Is What Mary Took Upon Herself To Do:
 - But Not With Water & A Towel:
 - But With A Special Oil & Her Hair!
 - And So - Out Of A Heart Of Genuine Thankfulness:
 - Mary Sacrificed Herself To The Lord!
 - All That She Was & All That She Had!
 - And In Doing So:
- Mary Honored Jesus!
 - She Took What Was Perhaps:
 - One Of Her Most Valuable Possessions:
 - And Gave It To Jesus!
 - It Was The "Ointment Of Spikenard!"
 - Which Was A Rare & Fragrant Perfume:
 - That Had To Be Imported From:
 - The Regions Of Northern India!
 - And So - This Ointment / Oil:
 - Was Valuable In Its Quality!
 - It Was "Very Costly" We Are Told!
 - And - The Reason For Its Cost:
 - Was Likely Because Of Its Purity!
 - It Was The Real-Deal! Not Some Knock-Off Brand!
 - And - It Was Also Valuable:
 - In Its Quantity!
 - It Was About 12 Ounces:
 - Which - Based On What We Find In 12:5 - Was Worth Close To A
Years Worth Of Salary:
 - For A Day-Laborer!
 - In Our Day:
 - Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars!
 - But - As Valuable As It Was:
 - It Could Not Compare To:
 - The Value Of Jesus:
 - To Her!
 - And So - Out Of Genuine Thankfulness:
 - And Honor To The Lord:
 - She Poured It All Out:
 - To Him! Also - We See:
- Mary Humbled Herself Before Jesus!
 - Because - Once Again:
 - We Find Mary At The "Feet Of Jesus!"
 - The First Time:
 - Mary Was At Jesus's Feet:
 - In Luke 10 - She Sat There:
 - To Listen To & Learn From Him!
 - The Second Time:
 - Mary Was At Jesus' Feet:
 - In John 11 - She Fell There:
 - To Cry & To Pray To Him!
 - But This Time:
 - Mary Knelt At Jesus Feet:
 - In Order To Serve Him & Submit Herself To Him!
 - So - Instead Of Water - She Used Oil:
 - And - Instead Of A Towel:
 - She Used Her Hair!

- What The Bible Calls The Glory Of A Woman:
 - Mary Used To Glorify The Lord!
- And - Instead Of A Servant:
 - She Did All Of This To Jesus:
 - Herself!
- Not This Time For Cleansing:
 - But As An Act Of Complete Consecration:
 - In Genuine Thankfulness:
 - To The Lord!
- And - When Mary Did This:
 - We Are Further Told In 12:3 - That:
 - “The House Was Filled With The Odor Of The Ointment!”
 - In Other Words:
 - The Testimony Of Mary’s Thankfulness:
 - Could Not Be Hidden!
 - Since The Fragrance Permeated:
 - The Entire House!
 - This Is What A:
 - Testimony Of Thanksgiving:
 - Can & Will Do:
 - When It Comes From A True & Genuine Heart!
 - Do You Have This Kind:
 - Of Gratitude To The Lord:
 - In Your Heart Today?
 - You Should & You Will:
 - When You Remember The Life:
 - That The Lord Has Given You:
 - Through Faith In Him!
 - The New Life!
 - And Now - You Can Express:
 - A Genuine Thankfulness:
 - By Serving The Lord!
 - Like Martha Did!
 - By Sharing The Lord!
 - Like Lazarus! And:
 - By Sacrificing To The Lord:
 - All That You Are & All That You Have:
 - Like Mary Did!
 - What A Testimony:
 - These Three Siblings Had!
 - A Testimony Of Thanksgiving:
 - To The Lord - For The Great Things He Had Done:
 - For Them!
 - And - What An Example:
 - For Us To Follow:
 - In Our Lives & From Our Hearts!
 - And Yet - How Was:
 - Their Testimony Received?
 - Well - As The Scene Unfolds:
 - We Then Find:

2. ***A Greedy Thanklessness:***

- Even By One Of Jesus’ Own Disciples!
 - That We Find In:
 - 12:4-6 - “Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray him, / Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? / This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein!”

- Now - Even Though:
 - Judas Was Numbered With The Disciples Of Jesus:
 - He Clearly Does Not Function:
 - With The Same Level Of Gratitude Even As:
 - This Family Of Siblings!
- After All - From Luke 7:47 - We Learn That:
 - “To Whom Little Is Forgiven, The Same Loveth Little!”
 - If Judas Had Truly Experienced Forgiveness From & Fellowship With Jesus:
 - He Would Have Loved What Martha & Lazarus & Mary:
 - Did For Jesus!
- But Instead - He Objects - And Even:
 - Accuses Mary:
 - Of Wastefulness - Instead Of:
 - Appreciating Her Thankfulness!
 - But - John Tells Us:
 - The Real Reason For:
 - Judas’ Response!
- Judas Was Filled With Both:
 - Covetousness & Carelessness!
- Instead Of A Testimony Of Thankfulness:
 - Judas Was A Man Of Covetousness:
 - And Greed!
 - The First Thing Out Of His Mouth:
 - Was The Value Of The Perfume:
 - That Mary Poured Out On Jesus!
 - 300 Pence - Or - The Amount Equivalent To The Daily Wage For About An Entire Year!
 - The Only Thing Of Value:
 - To Judas Was Something Tangible:
 - Like Money! Silver & Gold!
 - And - He Had No Understanding:
 - Of True Value!
 - The Value Of Jesus Himself!
 - And The Value Of Worship & Devotion To Him!
 - Eventually - What Was Of Value:
 - To Judas - He Would Even:
 - Cast Away!
 - But - What Was Of Value:
 - To Mary - Will Last:
 - For Eternity! But Also:
 - Instead Of A Testimony Of Thankfulness:
 - Judas Was A Man Of Carelessness!
 - That Is - He Could Not Care Any Less:
 - About The Poor:
 - In Spite Of His Words!
 - Even As John Tells Us In:
 - 12:6 - “This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein!”
 - Obviously John Did Not Know This About Judas At The Time!
 - But - Over Time - His True Character Came Out!
 - And - Judas Betrayed:
 - Not Only Jesus - But:
 - His Own Reputation & Responsibility!
 - He “Had The Bag!”
 - Not To Help Others:
 - But Only To Help Himself!
 - Sadly - This Kind Of Character:
 - Can Even Infect Us!

- Instead Of Living Our Lives:
 - With Genuine Thankfulness:
 - To The Lord:
 - Every Day!
- Selfishness Can Creep In!
 - And Other Things Become More Valuable & Important To Us:
 - Than The Work Of The Lord:
 - Our Worship Of The Lord:
 - And Our Walk With The Lord!
 - And Though:
 - We Might Not Have The Same Degree:
 - Of Covetousness & Carelessness:
 - As Judas!
 - Their Roots Are Still There!
 - And They Can Degenerate Into:
 - Thanklessness!
- A Thankless Heart:
 - Is A Judas Heart!
 - And - You Need To Guard Your Heart:
 - From This - By:
 - Dwelling More On Jesus & Less On Yourself!
- Especially Because Of What We Find Next:
 - In 12:7-8 - Which Is:

3. *A Gracious Tribute:*

- By Jesus Himself!
 - A Gracious Tribute To:
 - What He Values Most!
 - Which Is The Testimony Of Genuine Thankfulness:
 - Of Those Who Believe In Him & Belong To Him!
 - “Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. / For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always!”
 - The First Thing We Can See:
 - From These Words Is That:
 - Jesus Defends What Is Valuable!
 - Even - What He Values Most!
 - Which Is His People & Their Worship:
 - Of Him!
 - When Jesus Told Judas:
 - “Let Her Alone!” - Or:
 - Leave Her Be!
 - He Rebuked Judas:
 - In Front Of Everyone!
 - Telling Him To Get Out Of The Way Of Her Act Of:
 - Worship & Thankfulness!
 - Jesus Defended:
 - Who & What He Valued Most!
 - And - He Still Does!
 - When You Have A Testimony Of Thankfulness:
 - To The Lord - Even If It Is Considered Extravagant & Wasteful:
 - Before The World!
 - The Lord Will Not Let Anyone Take That Away From You!
 - And Yet - Jesus Defended Mary:
 - Knowing That It Would Add To:
 - Judas’ Shame - Which Would Lead To:
 - His Betrayal Of Jesus!
 - But Also - From This - We Can See That:
 - Jesus Declares What Is Valuable!

- Even - What Is Most Valuable:
 - To Us - And To The World!
- Because - Jesus Knew The:
 - Real Reason Why Mary Did This Act:
 - Of Honor & Humility To Him!
- It Was Because:
 - 12:7 - “Against The Day Of My Burying Hath She Kept This!”
 - Now - There Are Two Ways Of Looking At This Remarkable Statement!
- First - It May Mean That:
 - God In His Providence:
 - Had Mary “Keep” The Spikenard:
 - So That - On That Day:
 - She Might Pour It On Jesus As A Prophetic Act:
 - That Pointed To Jesus’ Upcoming Death & Burial!
 - If This Is The Case:
 - Than - Just Like God Used:
 - Caiaphas - The High Priest:
 - To Prophecy About Jesus’ Death - Without Even Knowing It!
 - God Used Mary:
 - To Do The Same!
 - But - From A Heart Of Faith & Gratitude!
 - And - She Did More:
 - Than She Knew!
 - Now - Without A Doubt:
 - God’s Providence Was Involved:
 - In Mary’s Testimony Of Thankfulness!
- But - Second - It May Mean That:
 - Mary Herself “Kept” Her Spikenard:
 - For This Very Purpose!
 - Because - As She Sat At The Feet Of Jesus:
 - She Listened To His Words Intently - And:
 - Perhaps Had A Greater Understanding Of His Words!
 - It May Be That:
 - Mary Came To Know:
 - More Than Others:
 - That Jesus’ Death Would Be No Ordinary Death!
 - And That - The Hour:
 - Of His Death:
 - Was Near!
 - And So - Instead Of Waiting:
 - To Show Her Love & Honor & Thankfulness - Until Then!
 - She Did What She Could:
 - While He Was Still Living!
- Because - Mary Wanted Jesus & Everyone Else:
 - To Know Just How Much:
 - He Meant To Her!
 - **IE:** How Often Do We Wait To Express Our Love & Honor To Others? Even Until Its Too Late
 - At Their Funeral - They Will Never Hear Or Know!
 - But - What About The Lord?
 - Why Wait To Express Your Love & Honor & Thanksgiving?
 - Do So Now! While You Are Living! So Everyone Else Might Know As Well!
- Either Way - Jesus Knew The Real Reason:
 - And - The Real Motive:
 - Behind Mary’s Act! And In Return:
 - Jesus Offered This Gracious Tribute To Her!
 - Jesus Does This For All:

- Who Believe In Him & Honor Him With Thankfulness!
- And Yet - We Can Also See That:
- Jesus Directs What Is Valuable:
 - To His People!
 - In 12:8 - Jesus Adds:
 - “For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always!”
 - In Other Words:
 - There Is A Time & Place:
 - For Everything!
 - And - As God’s People:
 - We Still Have A Responsibility:
 - To Honor & Help:
 - The Poor Around Us!
 - But - Also As God’s People:
 - We Also Have A Responsibility:
 - To Honor The Lord!

Conclusion:

1. But - It Was Through:
 - The Genuine Testimonies Of Thankfulness:
 - Of Martha & Of Lazarus & Of Mary:
 - That We Find The Two Main Reactions:
 - In 12:9-11!
 - Once Again:
 - More & More People:
 - “Believed On Jesus!” (12:11)
 - Isn’t This What Our Purpose Is - And:
 - What Our Desire:
 - Should Be In This World?
 - If So - Then:
 - We Need To Have:
 - A Testimony Of Thankfulness:
 - Before The World!
 - But Then Again:
 - This Led Others:
 - To Not Only Want To Kill Jesus:
 - But - 12:10 - “That They Might Put Lazarus Also To Death!”
 - To Have A Testimony:
 - Of Life & Thankfulness:
 - Can Also Be A Dangerous Thing:
 - In This World!
 - 2. But - There Is Nothing:
 - More Valuable To The Lord:
 - Than This Kind Of Testimony!
 - Is This Your Testimony:
 - Today?

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