

Final Encounters?

MARY: An Act of True Worship

Read: Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 7:6-7; 14:3-9; John 12:1-9; Luke 10:38-42; 12: 48; Acts 4:13; 2 Cor. 2:5; 1 Peter 2:9.

1. What was Mary's epitaph? What would be yours, or, what would you like yours to be?
2. Read all three passages from the gospels (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-9). Which way are they alike? In which ways do they differ?
3. Worship: how would you define it? Does the concept of worship differ from one kind of church to another? What does worship usually refer to in the context of a Pentecostal/charismatic church? Dan said that worship isn't about externals: what do you think he meant? (*hint: our English word "worship" comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word, essentially "worth-ship," where worth or value is attributed to someone or something*).
4. What do we know about Mary that explains her actions? (see John 11:17-44; Luke 10:38-42). Why did Mary have a spiritual insight (about Jesus' burial) that the disciples did not have? (see Matt. 16:21-23 as an example).
5. Bishop J.C.Ryle: "If a man understands the sinfulness of sin and the mercy of Christ in dying for him, he will never think anything too good or costly to give to Christ . . . he will fear wasting time, talents, money on the things of this world. He will not be afraid of wasting them on his Saviour. He will fear going into extremes about business, money, politics or pleasure, but he will not be afraid of doing too much for the Lord." Thoughts?
6. Luke 12:48 "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." What have we been given/entrusted with? What is required of us?
7. Dan said that a song does not necessarily constitute worship. What do you think he meant by this? According to Matt Redman's song *When the music fades* what does the Lord require of us?
8. In which way was Jill sale of her horse an act of worship?
9. Do you feel sympathy with Judas' view that it would have been better for the perfume to be sold and the money given to the poor? In which ways do we sometimes hear a similar objection today?
10. 2 Corinthians 2:5. In which way do we carry the aroma of Christ today? See Acts 4:13.