I. LAZARUS AN THE BRAND NEW MAN

LAZARUS

Jn.11:25-27 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” She *said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.

I love the story of Lazarus. It was one of the last miracles in the ministry of Jesus and had to be the most important of all. After all, when Jesus turned the water into wine as His first miracle we learned He would save His best miracles for last. Why is this miracle so important? First, Jesus always takes care of His friends. Are you a friend of God? That is what Jesus called His followers, they were His friends. This is what we are called to, friendship with the Lord. This is definitely our place of safety.

Next, we see a picture of why Jesus came in this miracle. Lazarus was dead, laying in the tomb for four days. There was nothing he could do to fix his situation. There was no doctor, lawyer, politician, or health consultant that could change these circumstances. Lazarus was dead. This is a picture of where all of us are without Christ, dead in our sins. The only solution? Jesus had to intervene and raise Lazarus and us from the dead.

We also see the way our circumstances effect others. When something happens in our lives it effects everyone in our world. Martha, Mary, and the whole town of Bethany were devastated by Lazarus’ death. When someone’s life takes a downward turn it effects everyone in our world. Seeing Lazarus’ family weeping outside his tomb is all too familiar. I have seen far too many parents, siblings, and friends weeping outside of hospital rooms, prisons, car wrecks, and rehabs. Our “deaths” effect everyone we know.

When Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb their weeping was turned to joy. Lazarus was back. This is also a picture of what happens when Jesus brings us out of our misery, our death while we still live. Not only is our life resurrected, the joy of everyone we know is awakened. This is exactly what the ministry of Jesus is all about.

That brings us to Mary. Her weeping for Lazarus was over. Now she was crying tears of joy. It wouldn’t be long until these tears of joy would wash the feet of Jesus. She was beginning to understand ho Jesus was and why He was their friend.
II. MARY’S RESPONSE - GLIMMER OF REVELATION OF THE POWER OF REDEMPTION

EXPOSED BY WORSHIP

**John 12:3** 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.

It’s funny how worship can expose the heart of everyone involved. Mary had just poured out the fragrant oil on the feet of Jesus when another fragrance filled the room. It wasn’t enough for Judas to have his own opinions, he had to attack Mary and her extravagant display of affection. Why do you allow this kind of affection? Why do you allow this kind of waste? Shouldn’t we have fed the poor instead of wasting the oil on your hands and feet? Have you ever wondered what was really eating at Judas? Sure, he was bummed about the apparent waste of resources (he had other ideas of how to use the money). That wasn’t the real issue; the real issue was the public display of affection. Judas couldn’t let that slide. It put too much pressure on him and the others. Were they expected to worship this way too?

What Judas didn’t quite understand was what had made Mary this kind of worshipper? What had changed in the last few days? From something Jesus said we can see into the heart of Mary’s actions.

“For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.”

That was it! Mary seemed to be the very first from the inner circle to get the implications of His death. This is why He had come. Mary finally understood the source Of His mercy and her forgiveness. He was the sacrificial lamb that John the Baptist had prophesied about. Jesus had come to die. This is what exposed Judas’ heart. Judas wanted the power that would result from a revolution, His death would be the end of those hopes and plans. That’s why that blasted fragrance was so disturbing; it was the smell of Mary’s worship. This was the fragrant worship that sprung from revelation. Jesus had come to die for sinners, this was Mary’s only hope.

This brings us to us. Who is Jesus to you. Is He just a way for us to accomplish our earthly dreams; maybe business, ministry, or even family. Or is He more than that, maybe He is way more than that. How will you know? You will know when you next find yourself in a room where that aroma of worship begins to be poured out. It has a way of uncovering the condition of our hearts.
III. CHRIST IS THE FRAGRANCE OF OUR LIVES

1. FRAGRANCE OF LIFE OR DEATH

2 Cor.2:14-16 - But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

2. WORSHIPPERS RELEASE THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

Jn.12:1-3 - Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

3. HE IS CALLING US TO LIFE

Isa.55:1-3 - Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear that your soul may live.
IV. THE VIAL MUST BE BROKEN - THE PLACE OF THE CROSS IN LIVING IN THE ANOINTING

Mk.14:3 - While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head.

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“By the breaking of that flask for the Lord’s sake, the home in Bethany was pervaded with the sweetest fragrance. Something was set free for all to appreciate, and none could be unaware of it. What is the significance of this? Have you ever met someone who has suffered deeply and whose experiences have compelled him to find satisfaction in the Lord alone? Then immediately you have become aware of something. Immediately your spiritual senses detect a fragrance—what Paul terms “a sweet savor of Christ.” Something has been broken in that life in order to release what is there within of God Himself, and you cannot mistake it. Yes, the odor that filled the house that day in Bethany still fills the church today. Mary’s fragrance never passes.”

2 Cor.4:7-10 - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.
V. WE FIND THE FRAGRANCE AT HIS FEET - PLACE OF HUMILITY

Jn.12:3 - Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume

1. STAYING AT HIS FEET

2. MINISTERING TO THE LEAST OF THESE

Fire Bible

Because the perfume was very expensive, Mary’s actions demonstrated great sacrifice, devotion and love. What she did was unusual in several ways. First of all, oil was usually poured on the head. In addition, a respectable woman usually would not let her hair down in public. Both of these actions showed humility; she did not care what anyone else but Jesus thought about her. Perhaps she sensed that her opportunity to express devotion to Jesus would soon be over, so she did all that she could. Jesus knew that she could have used her resources for other people or purposes; but knowing that his time on earth was short, he graciously received this act of devotion. This shows how special it is to Jesus when someone chooses to do something selfless just for him (vv. 7–8). Mary’s faith and devotion to the Lord is the highest example of what God desires in his followers. For this reason, Jesus stated that her act of love would be told wherever his message is preached.
VI. THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH THE FRAGRANCE

Jn.12:3 - Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume

1. THE HOUSE - OUR BODY AND LIFE

2. THE HOUSE WHERE WE LIVE

3. THE HOUSE OF GOD - SITTING AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST - THE WHOLE HOUSE/CHURCH IS FILLED WITH THE FRAGRANCE

VII. THE FRAGRANCE AND THE REASON JESUS CAME

MARY VS. JUDAS

Jn.12:4-7 - But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?” Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial.

The cross brings us into life. Judas was seeking blessing in this life as his purpose. Mary had tasted the essence of life indeed
Jn.10:9-11 - I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I **came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.** I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.