

Through Their Eyes...

As Jesus set His path toward the cross, He encountered many individuals—each faced with a moment of decision.

The cross challenged everyone Jesus met in different ways. No matter what their background, they had to confront a pivotal question: Would they lay down their pride, grief, and confusion at the feet of a crucified Messiah? Their response would lead them either toward life or death.'

Jesus said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me" (Mark 8:34).

As we journey toward Easter, we will look through the eyes of those who encountered Jesus before, during, and after the cross. And as we do, we will ask: What is the Holy Spirit calling us to surrender to our crucified Messiah?

Through their eyes: Mary. John 12:1-8.

Mary, Martha's younger sister had just been through the incredible event of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

This incredible event didn't stop those who were looking for way to kill Jesus, it just increased their urgency. With the resurrection of Lazarus Jesus was more popular than ever, as we see in the stories preceding and that following this one. Now those who want to kill Jesus, also want to kill Lazarus as well (12:10).

Into this scene we see Mary enter into a banquet feast given to honour Jesus.

Read the passage.

Mary anointing of Jesus' feet with nard, a costly aromatic oil extracted from a plant native to the Himalayas, was approximately a 300 denarii or a year's wages for a labourer about AUD 60,000. This extravagant act of devotion not only filled the house with its fragrance but also symbolised Mary's profound love and foreshadowed Jesus' impending burial.

Put yourself in Mary's shoes and look through her eyes.

Mary broke cultural norms by anointing Jesus in John 12:1-9. Women were discouraged from touching unrelated men, yet she poured nard on His feet. Foot washing was a servant's role, and letting down her hair was improper. She also faced criticism for using costly perfume instead of selling it for the poor. The nard, may have been her dowry. By offering it to Jesus, she possibly surrendered her chance of marriage, showing complete devotion and valuing Him above personal security or social expectations, foreshadowing His burial and ultimate sacrifice.

Q. Imagine you're Mary and about to walk in the room to anoint Jesus. Consider all the barriers about, would you have to surrender to anoint Jesus that day?

Jesus said in Matthew 26:13, "Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Mary didn't do this so that people would brag about her, but that is exactly what's happened.

Q. What does this say to us about what God does with what we're willing to surrender in light of Jesus love and sacrifice for us? (See Mark 10:29-31).

Mary responded with extravagant worship and trust in light of her relationship with Jesus and his resurrection of Lazarus. We have the light, not just Lazarus resurrection but the cross and 2000 years of seeing his Kingdom grow.

Q. Like Mary, is their and extravagant act of worship and trust in Jesus that the Holy Spirit is inviting you to?