



Not to Us But to Your Name

By Bryan Trotter on September 29, 2021

TODAY'S READING: John 12

Throughout scripture, we see many examples of worship. Admittedly, I view many passages of the Bible through the filter of worship because of my job. John 12 is an incredible illustration of worship.

John 12 begins days before Jesus was betrayed, beaten and crucified. Jesus and the disciples recline at a dinner in Bethany with the recently resurrected Lazarus. Outside a murderous crowd begins to form. In the midst of the coming chaos, Mary approaches Jesus with perfume in hand. This is no ordinary perfume but is of immense value. The room pauses with all eyes on Mary, pondering what she will do next. She kneels down before Jesus and opens the bottle. Those in the room lean in to better observe the commotion. She begins to pour the ointment on the feet of Jesus. The room is instantly filled with the aroma of the perfume. Mary leans her head down in humility to Jesus' feet, covered with a mixture sweat, dirt and perfume. With her hair in her hands, she wipes the feet of Jesus. The disciples are taken aback at the sight. Mary simply continues to wipe His feet with her hair.

Mary demonstrated an amazing act of worship in these moments. Her brother, once dead, was now alive so she responded in adoration to Jesus. Her adoration was costly to her on all levels, from the money spent on the perfume to her hair being used as a towel. This act cost her greatly. Worship also comes with a cost. When we worship God, we are seeking to celebrate and adore His name, renown, works, etc., and not our own. The writer of Hebrews calls it a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Isaiah 26:8 reads, "Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts." The psalmist wrote in Psalm 115:1, "Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." Worship costs us because we put God before ourselves. The object of our worship is God and not our own satisfaction. When we gather to worship, my prayer is that you are not scoring how good/bad the music or sermon is but how we can give our adoration to God.

Putting anything above yourself comes at a cost because it receives your attention, focus, affection and time. This is what God desires from us as we worship--to pour our praises to Him in adoration just as Mary poured the perfume on His feet. Today, spend some time directing your adoration to God through prayer for who He is and what He has done.

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