

## **“Love Changes Everything—Our Worship”**

Love Changes Everything — Part 1

John 12:1-11

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”  
Mark 10:45

### ***Doing God's will meant going to the cross!***

Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"  
John 18:11

#### **1. Simon loved Jesus by hosting a dinner.**

Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot." While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Mark 14:1-3

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Romans 6:23

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

### ***Simon's hospitality was a response to the love and healing of Jesus. His love changes everything!***

“...’I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’”  
Matthew 25:45

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

#### **2. Martha loved Jesus by serving Him dinner.**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served...  
John 12:1-2

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:8-10

### ***Martha's service was a response to the love and healing of Jesus. His love changes everything!***

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16

### 3. Lazarus loved Jesus by his fellowship and witness.

Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. John 12:2

***Lazarus' witness was a response to the love and healing of Jesus. His love changes everything!***

Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

John 12:9-11

Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. Here he stayed and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true." And in that place many believed in Jesus. John 10:40-42

### 4. Mary loved Jesus by her worship.

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Matthew 26:6-13

**A word to the wise:** Most of the time, our jumping on board with another's complaint leads us into sin.

... "I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24

***Mary's sacrifice was a response to the love and teaching of Jesus. His love changes everything!***

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:7-8

***The Christian life ought to be a response to the love, forgiveness,  
healing, teaching, and fellowship of Jesus.  
His love changes everything!***

**“Love Changes Everything”**  
Personal and Small Group Study

**Read:** Matthew 26:6-16, Mark 14:1-11 and John 12:1-17.

1. How does reading each of these accounts help put this special dinner in perspective, and help you better understand the sequence of events leading up to Palm Sunday?
2. John's gospel gives a fuller account of each person's response toward Jesus. What do Simon's, Martha's, Lazarus', and Mary's actions have in common?
3. What does Mark record that helps us understand why the disciple's response to Mary's gift is so different than the overall tone of the dinner honoring Jesus? Look especially at Mark 14:4.

**Read:** 2 Samuel 24:24

4. How did Simon's, Martha's, Lazarus', and Mary's gifts cost them something?

**Read:** Hebrews 13:15-16

5. In what ways are your hospitality, service, fellowship, witness, and worship a sacrifice that costs you something?