

Who Are You More Like?

By Edd Sterchi

In a very familiar incident in John 12, we have a stark contrast between two individuals and two attitudes. Jesus and His apostles were in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper (Matt. 26:6). Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were also with them. It is then that Mary decided to do something very profound. "Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil." (John 12:3) Judas' reaction was one that many would have had, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (John 12:5) A denarii was the equivalent of a day's common labor (cf. Matt. 20:9). At minimum wage, this would put the current day value of the perfume at almost \$20,000.

At first glance, the way we tend to judge people today, we would label Mary as wasteful and Judas as practical. But let's dig a little deeper into the account. John's inspired commentary on the account follows by stating of Judas, "This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it." (John 12:6) And Jesus, knowing Mary's and Judas' hearts and intentions said of Mary, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial." (John 12:7) Matthew's account also has Jesus saying of Mary, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me." (Matt. 26:10)

So, let's look and truly contrast Judas and Mary, with the information the Scriptures give:

- * Judas was greedy, but Mary was generous and sacrificial.
- * Judas used deception, but Mary was open and sincere.
- * Judas outwardly appeared righteous, but Mary used outward actions to show her devotion.

This begs a question for us to note. Who are we more like? Many appear religious, but inwardly are corrupt. The truly righteous are sincere inside and truly show it on the outside. Luke tells us that immediately after this incident Satan entered Judas, who then accepted the chief priests' offer of just 30 pieces of silver to betray our Savior (Luke 22:3-6; cf. Matt. 26:14-16). What a contrast between Mary who anointed Jesus with ointment worth almost a year's wages, and Judas who betrayed him for a relative pittance.

Who are you more like?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

July 10, 2022

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: The Victorious Life II

Paul will be preaching today

Scripture Reading: James 1: 9-15

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul is starting a study of the book of James.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm via Zoom, continuing in chapter 11 of Hebrews.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** July 17th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class -Tuesday July 12th, Lesson 10, Day 1.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing- July 31st @ Horseheads**
- ❖ **Sojourners here- July 30th – August 11th**



MAGI BOXES

Please be on the lookout for summer items such as **flip-flops (size M 5-7Y)**, **sunglasses**, **boys shorts (size 10-12)**. **We need plastic bins and cardboard boxes to organize the donations**, and **money** toward items we order in bulk. Remember that we are now collecting things for **ages 11+ (about size 12, or 10-12)**. Hygiene items and underwear are always on sale somewhere.

BRING-A-FRIEND/POTLUCK SUNDAY

Next Sunday remember to bring a dish to share and invite someone you know to worship.

SOJOURNERS ARE COMING!

During their stay we plan to have a **4-day gospel meeting** and invite neighborhood and area mothers and grandmothers to a Saturday morning **early childhood education program** to help parents learn the importance of interaction with their preschool children. We will be **knocking on doors** and handing out information and invitations to these programs. **Please help if you are able.**

PRAYERS

- **Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine!**
- **Pray for Carrie and Mike Walls.** They are currently relaxing for a week while Mike recovers from his surgery. In a day or two they will check to see if the surgery has solved the problem.
- Please pray for **Henry Rounsville**, a friend of Paul's who recently had cancer surgery in Rochester. Pray that he and his sister Caroline, who lives with him can manage his medical needs.
- **Pray for the Endless Mountain's church which currently meets in the Rivera house in Nicholson, PA. They need support for a preacher and place to meet.**
- **Arthur's heart catheterization** on Wednesday showed no obstruction in his arteries. Please pray that his medicines can improve his heart condition.
- Please pray for **Dan Myer**. He has been diagnosed with lung cancer and will need chemo. He does not understand why he needs so many tests and is frustrated that they are not starting treatment.
- Pray for:
 - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer, tumor on liver)
 - **Deb Barnhardt** (lung cancer) moving in with daughter
 - **Henry Rounsville** (home recovering from cancer surgery)
 - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army)
 - **Jerry Lowe (recovery from heart attack)**
 - **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's and Parkinson's) Chris will be having cataract surgery this week.
 - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer, taking part in a study as last resort)
 - **Doug Elsbree's friend Dave Merrill**- liver cancer
 - **Steve Noble (lung transplant difficulties)**
 - **Jim Sexton** (stage 4 esophageal cancer, he is doing much better and the cancer is shrinking, liver and lymph nodes are now clear)

If you have any **PRAYERS** or **NEWS** that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.