

The Gospel of John: The Plot & the Anointing

John 11:45-12:11

The Plot (11:45-57)

- Jesus' final sign causes many to put their faith in Him
- The Sanhedrin (Jewish ruling council) debates what to do
 - They are concerned that Jesus will cause rebellion against Rome, which will result in their national demise
 - Caiaphas, the High Priest, declares that they should kill Jesus
 - He does not realize that he is speaking prophetically that Jesus would die for the Jews and the rest of humanity (Jn 10:16)
- Jesus retreats to the town of Ephraim
- Everyone is looking for Him to return to Jerusalem for Passover
 - But first, He returns to Bethany

The Anointing (12:1-8)

- Six days before Passover, Jesus returns to Bethany
- Jesus & the disciples attend a meal in Jesus' honor
 - Lazarus & his sisters are present
- Mary takes expensive perfume and pours it on Jesus' feet & wipes them with her hair
 - Both the quantity & quality shows Mary's devotion to Jesus
 - His feet are emphasized to show her humility & a possible foreshadowing of the events of ch. 13
- Judas Iscariot protests that Mary's act is a waste of money
 - Suggesting that the perfume could have been sold and the money used for the poor
 - John informs us that Judas was a thief and wanted access to the money for himself
- Jesus rebukes him, stating that Mary has anointed Him for His burial
 - The focus is on Jesus' imminent sacrifice
 - From this moment on, every act of Jesus is leading to the Cross

Faith & Fallout (12:9-11)

- When news spread that He had returned to Bethany, people came to see Jesus & Lazarus
- This caused even more people to put their faith in Him
- It also made the Sanhedrin realize that they needed to kill Lazarus as well to stop the spread of faith in Jesus
 - His testimony was too much for them to fight

So What?

- Mary's humility was used to highlight Jesus' sacrifice, even though she did not know it
- What are ways that we show our devotion to God?
- How do our lives highlight Jesus to those around us?

Meditation Verse: 1 John 2:2

Next Week: John 12:12-36