



Not a Fan

Up Close & Personal (Mark 14:1-11)
By Pastor David Hillis, 25 August 2013

BIG IDEA: God calls anyone and everyone to follow Him, regardless of who you are or what you have done. But He doesn't call us to follow Him so that we can work for Him or be more religious; His call is a call to relationship, up close and personal.

Story also found in Matthew 26:6-13, Luke 7:36-50 & John 12:1-11

There is no believing without following; there is no John 3:16 without Luke 9:23.

God doesn't intend faith to be simply an intellectual exercise, but rather the starting point in following Christ in life, through good times and bad.

Jesus accepts anyone committed to following Him, not just those who are super-smart or who do all the right things in life. He created us! And He's not disappointed in His work in the least.

In the Old Testament, God uses this Hebrew word *yada'* - a word we typically translate into English as "intimate" or "intimacy" - to describe God's relationship with us.

- Over and over, *yada'* is the word that's used to describe how God knows you and how He wants us to know Him.
- When we follow Him, He's not looking for a casual encounter, a relationship of convenience or even one based off of duty or performance. God wants you to know Him just like He knows you, up close and personal.

An act of *yada'*:

- This was a woman who had put her relationship with God first.
- This was a woman who didn't want her relationship with God to be just some casual encounter.
- This was a woman who was not trying to look pious or religious. She was not trying to just be a good, dedicated, Christian servant.
- This was a woman who was passionate about putting her relationship with God, despite all her imperfections, above everything else.
- Most people when they sin like she had, run away from God, (not run to God), but not her.

Who are you like in this story?

- Are you like Simon, focused on rules and how things look or appear to others?
- Are you like the disciples, focused on what seems most sensible or prudent?
- Are you like Judas, just pretending to have a real relationship with Jesus?
- Or are you like Mary, who sees a close, unbroken, personal relationship with Christ as the most important thing in life?

It's easy for all of us to find ourselves like one of the others in this story, but Jesus says to them and to us, "I want you to be like Mary."

- "I'm not expecting you to be perfect or pretend or act like you are. You really aren't fooling anybody anyway. I don't want the you that you project to everybody else, the you that tries to look like you've got it all together. I want YOU, the real you!

Being a follower of Christ is not a matter of values, traditions, beliefs or behaviors. At the end of the day, really it's a matter of genuinely knowing an loving Jesus.

So many think God helps those who help themselves. The truth is, God helps us in spite of ourselves, as long as we really want Him in the middle of our lives.