

**The Heart of Worship: Treasuring Jesus Above All
That You May Believe: The Gospel of John | John 12:1-11
Southern Hills Baptist Church
April 2, 2017**

WELCOME

Well, well, well.... Fancy seeing you here. This is all so familiar and yet so different at the same time. While many things are different this week here is one that isn't... Turn in your Bibles to John 12.

Transitional Time

This week kicks off the first of 5 weeks of meeting at the YMCA. This is an exciting time as I think of it as a count down until we move in to our new spot and kick off our new service time. We are hard at work getting things ready for the big transition. There is much to do, but it is so exciting to see things come together. God blessed us greatly with our time at New Life, but we were never able to really make that space ours. I look forward to have a space we can use when we need it and have it reflect who we are as a church family. Exciting times to be sure.

INTRODUCTION

Alright, alright, let's get to the more important task at hand. We are here to hear from God tonight. John 12 is where we will be in a moment.

What is Worship?

As you turn in that direction, let me ask you... **What is worship?** How would you define worship?

- **Is it the singing of songs?** We often call the portion of a Sunday service where there is singing, "worship." Is that what worship is, singing? That is certainly how many people talk about it.
- **Is worship being in a church building at a certain time** each week with other believers? You are at our Sunday "worship service." That is what we call this service, that is what most churches call their Sunday service, therefore by being here you are worshipping, right? Maybe.

So, what is worship? Are these examples worship? Singing? Sunday service? The answer is, they can be. **Worship has a lot more to do with our hearts than our voices or our actions.** What goes on in our hearts in the midst of authentic worship? How could we define true worship?

True Worship Pictured

Our text gives us a great picture of what true worship looks like and this example reveals the driving force of worship from within our hearts.

CONTEXT – Recapping Lazarus' Resurrection

With that said, let me catch you up on the context of our passage as it is critical to remember as we enter chapter 12...

Allowing Lazarus to Die

In John 11 Jesus preformed His greatest miracle to date, He raised Lazarus from the grave. You remember the curious and glorious story, right? Lazarus and his two sisters were dear friends of Jesus so when Lazarus suddenly became seriously ill Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus, expecting Him to come to the rescue. Jesus didn't. He knew the seriousness of the situation, but chose to stay where He was two more days, allowing Lazarus to die. Our text tells us He did this out of love for them. How was this loving? Well. Jesus knew that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead and in so doing He

would further reveal Himself to be the Messiah, God become man, the holder of resurrection life. And that is exactly what Jesus did.

Divine Words Giving Life

After Lazarus had been dead and laid in a tomb for 4 days, Jesus walked up to his tomb, had the large boulder sealing the tomb rolled away and called out, "Lazarus, come out." At the sound of Jesus' divine call Lazarus' dead, lifeless body took life once again. His lungs filled with breath. His heart began pumping blood through his body. His brain sparked back to life. The decay that had started over the course of sitting in a hot tomb for 4 days was undone. And Lazarus walked right out of that tomb!

Pharisees Response – Kill Him

Our text transitions from this miracle to the response of the Pharisees and other religious leaders of the day. They get word of this miracle and in an effort to protect their own self-interest, their own power, their own way of life, they begin plotting to murder Jesus.

Enslaving Power of Sin

How clearly does this reveal the enslaving power of sin? Jesus brought a dead man back to life with words and their response is to kill him? God was clearly in their midst and they cared more about their position, power, authority, and wealth. How could they ignore signs to clear?

Not of His Fold

Jesus told us in chapter 10 that His sheep hear His voice. **These religious leaders were not of His fold clearly. They had eyes, but could not see. Sin had blinded them to the truth.** They loved their way of life far more than the God they claimed to serve. So they plotted to kill the man who gave back life to the dead!

The Response of His Sheep

That was one response to Lazarus' being raised from the dead. **Chapter 12 opens up by showing another response, a response from those of Jesus' fold,** those who came when they heard the voice of their shepherd. We now get to see how Lazarus, Mary, and Martha responded to Jesus' miracle.

OUR TEXT

Let's take a moment and read our passage now...

John 12:1-11

[1] Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. [2] So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. [3] Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. [4] But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, [5] "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" [6] He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. [7] Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. [8] For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." [9] When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. [10] So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, [11] because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

A DINNER FOR JESUS

As the story opens up we learn that it is 6 days from the Passover, meaning that Jesus' death is about a week away. He is once again in Bethany, the very place the Jews were seeking to kill him in chapter 11. So a little time has passed between what we studied in chapter 11 and where we are now, but the indication is that not much time as passed.

Thank You Dinner – Appropriate Response, Right?

What we see is that Lazarus, Mary, and Martha were preparing a “thank you” dinner for Jesus. As we already mentioned, Jesus had just spoken and caused Lazarus' corpse to regenerate and spring forth in new life. I have never died and been brought back to life, I would imagine a thank you would be in order. That is how it works right? That would be the polite response, no?

More Than A Thank You

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus had far more in mind than being polite of course. **This was a matter of worship for them.** They saw Jesus for who He was, the Son of God, Messiah, Savior. **So they wanted to express the love, the adoration, the wonder that was bubbling up in their hearts for Jesus.**

An Intentional Evening of Worship

What we see at this thank you dinner is a very intentional setting where they want to all come together and serve Jesus, showing Him their gratitude and love. Mary's action gets most of the attention, but each one of them played a role in this.

- **Martha** is there **serving**. She is preparing the food, setting the table, making sure everyone is comfortable. She is the hostess.
- **Lazarus** is **at the table** with Jesus. He is there to be Jesus' company as everything gets ready. He provides fellowship for Jesus.
- **Mary's** role is to **present a gift**, which we will break down further in a moment.

Again, while Mary's work gets most of the attention, and rightly so, I believe this was all a coordinated effort by this family, in an effort to show their love, reverence, and gratitude for Jesus.

A GIFT FOR JESUS

So Martha is making sure everyone has what they need. Lazarus is talking with Jesus. Then Mary comes out with **a pound of pure nard, which was a very fragrant ointment, almost like a perfume.** Let's just get this out of the way.... “nard” is a funny word... “nard”... “nard.” Not sure why, but it made me laugh all week. It certainly doesn't sound like something elegant like a perfume.

4 Things We Learn from Mary's Worship

Ok, ok, with that aside, what Mary has done here is striking. She has come to the feet of Jesus and begun to pour this fragrant ointment on his feet. There are 4 things that we need to observe about Mary's act of worship through this gift...

1. Treasuring Jesus with our Treasures

The first thing that we should note and that should strike us is that a pound of pure nard carried the **value of roughly 300 denarii**, according to Judas. Now Judas was the moneyman for the group so I would have to imagine his estimate here was in the right ballpark. 300 denarii is the **modern day equivalent of \$26,000**. That is a fairly good chunk of money to be pouring on someone's feet, right? \$26K is nothing to sneeze at right? I looked it up...

- You could buy a **brand new Ford F-150** with that much cash!
- You could buy **86 iPads**, you know, just in case you wanted to have one everywhere!
- You could buy **one taco every day from Torchy's for next 20 years!**
- You could **pay rent at our new building for 6.5 months**. That doesn't sound as impressive, but believe me it is. Rent out here in Round Rock ain't cheap.

You get the idea. The gift that Mary gave was nothing small, in fact it was huge. Do you remember the last time you gave someone a \$26,000 gift? Yeah, probably not b/c it is likely that none of you ever have. Particularly, a gift that you poured out on the feet of another.

How Would You Respond?

What is your reaction to this? If we are all being honest and we hadn't read the whole story up front I think most of us would have responded like Judas. What is she thinking? We could use that resource to do some real good. That money could go so far in helping many of the people that Jesus talks with on a daily basis.

Mary Had Counted the Cost

Now, of course Mary knew all of this. She knew the great cost of this very valuable ointment that she was pouring out on Jesus' feet. **She had counted the cost before she had made this bold move.** So what motivated her? What caused her to be so lavish in her expression of love and gratitude towards Jesus? She knew Jesus was not looking for opulence or fancy living.

Expressing Her Love for Her Great Treasure

The answer is this, **Mary wanted to express the reality that existed within her heart. Jesus was her great treasure.** She, along with her brother and sister, **valued Jesus above everyone and everything else. They all wanted to express that and how could they best do that? They gave up what was likely their most costly and valuable possession, this pound of pure nard.**

Illustration – Buying a Shirt

Transactions like this express something simple and obvious. If I go to the store to buy a new shirt that costs \$20, when I give the cashier the payment for the shirt I am communicating that I believe the shirt to be of greater value in my life than \$20. Thus the exchange is made.

Mary is communicating that **Jesus was worth more than what was likely her most expensive possession.** So when Mary anoints the feet of Jesus, people would be left asking, **what is of greater value to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus than Jesus? Surely nothing.**

Application – Treasure Jesus with Your Treasures

Let me pause here and ask you this... **What do you treasure in your life?** I hope many of you are answering "Jesus" in your hearts right now. Ok, good, let's assume that. What else do you treasure?

- What else do you value?
- What do you get excited about?
- What do you day dream about?
- What are you happy to spend your money on?
- Where does the bulk of your free time go?

This isn't a trap. I am not trying to put you in a "gotcha" moment. Think honestly. The answer could be anything really. Maybe it is...

- **Financial Freedom.** The savings that you have stockpiled gives you a sense of peace and freedom.
- **A hobby you have,** something you spend your weekends on that you so easily lose yourself in.
- **A prized possession,** your car, a collectable, your tricked out computer, your house.
- **Your time.** That is a resource you can't easily get more of, so what you have is your most prized possession of all.
- **Your health,** so you are happy to spend your countless hours exercising.
- **Your family.** They are a gift from God and you see them in that light. You treasure your family in a special way and love it when your days revolve around spending time together.
- **Entertainment.** There is nothing you look forward to more than plopping down on the couch and cuddling up with Netflix.

Let me be clear, these are all good things. They are gifts from God. What you treasure, what you value likely falls into one of these buckets. Now with this in mind, what I want to ask you next is this... **like Mary, how can you demonstrate with your life that Jesus is the Great and True Treasure of your life? Mary was willing to sacrifice something of huge value** in her life to celebrate Jesus, to make much of Jesus, out of a heart of worship for Jesus.

How Could You Show Jesus is Your True Treasure

How could you do the same with what you value? **How could you use your treasures in this life to show the world that Jesus is your TREASURE?** Your great treasure, your true treasure.

- How could you sacrifice that which you love for your greater love, Jesus?
- How could you use the good gifts that God has given for the advancement of Jesus' name?
- Where could you give generously and even radically like Mary did out of a heart that loves to see Jesus exalted and made much of?

Tools for God's Glory

You could answer these questions in countless ways. **We need look at all that God has given us in possessions, passions, time, and talent as tools that God has given us for His glory.**

- Sometimes that will look like **enjoying that good gift** in your life and enjoying God through that gift.
- Other times it will look like **sacrificing it** so that others can see that the love you have for that thing/person pales in comparison to your love for Jesus.

Making those sacrifices or offerings isn't only about showing the value of Jesus to others, it is also about being true to your love for Jesus. Should He truly be the Great Treasure of your heart, giving those kinds of gifts should be something you want.

If Jesus Did for Me What He Did for Mary...

Now, maybe some would say, "Thomas, you want me to give a gift like Mary in some way? I probably would had Jesus just raised my brother from the grave. Mary's situation was extreme, the miracle she witnessed was other-worldly. If God would do that in my life, you be rest assured I would respond like Mary. That just hasn't happened yet."

He Has Done More!!

To that I would reply... **It hasn't happened to you? But, oh yes it has.** The resurrection of Lazarus was a picture of what Jesus has done to you spiritually and a foretaste of what He will do for all of those who are His. **Jesus resurrected your dead soul**, giving you new spiritual life and promised you a forever life with Him in eternity. What you have been given and promised was greater than what Lazarus received.

Thus, go and be like Mary, give of your treasures so that you may enjoy your True TREASURE all the more and show the world the surpassing worth of your True TREASURE, Jesus Christ.

Transition

So the first thing I wanted you to see of Mary's gift was the great cost involved, how she gave of one of her treasures to celebrate her True Treasure, Jesus. The next thing we should take note of is how she uses with this fragrant ointment.

2. Communicating the Supremacy of Jesus

Mary takes this very fine, very expensive, very sweet smelling ointment and **pours it on the human feet of Jesus**. Generally this ointment anointed the heads of people, not the feet. Remember what life was like back in Jesus' day. Most everyone wore sandals of some kind and everyone walked everywhere through dirt roads. There were not too many paved roads at this point. Livestock was commonplace on these roads. I am not sure how they cared for the mess that this would cause, but whatever they did couldn't have been full proof. So... feet got dirty, feet were smelly, feet were gross. It was a problem everyone had, so there was no avoiding, but it was also a problem that everyone understood. This is why Jesus' act of washing His disciple's feet later in the book of John is so stunning.

Not the Best Place, Right?

So as we put all of this together, this just doesn't seem like the most natural place for this high-end ointment to go. Do you generally give you feet a spritz of perfume or cologne before you leave the house? Probably not. It is just as odd to see Mary pouring out \$26,000 of fragrant ointment on the feet of Jesus, a place that won't even retain that beautiful smell for all too long as Jesus will be walking the streets again in matter of hours.

Least of Jesus is Worthy of the Best of Us

So what are we to take from this? In the words of **John Piper**, **"The least of Jesus is worthy of best of us."** **Mary is communicating through her actions just how high and exalted Jesus is. There is none greater**, there is none better. Jesus is worthy of having His feet anointed in the finest ointments. What a powerful way to illustrate the supremacy of Jesus in all things!

3. A Living Sacrifice

Another aspect of Mary's gift we should take note of is how cleaned Jesus' feet after anointing them with this ointment. **She wipes His feet with her hair. That wasn't a cultural norm of some sort.** We see Jesus use a towel when cleaning the feet of His disciples, but Mary uses her very own hair. While the ointment was fragrant and beautiful it is still another person's feet, which would make me squeamish in any situation I can think of. Yet here is Mary wiping Jesus feet with her hair.

Hair Down!?

Something else of cultural note that we don't naturally pick up on, but **women didn't let their hair down in public**. That was something reserved for their husbands. **For Mary to do this before the**

company of others would have raised eyebrows, but Mary was far more concerned with serving Jesus than she was with impressing others. She cared more about Him than what others thought.

Posture of Humility, Living Sacrifice

What are we to take from this? Mary is showing herself to be in a posture of great humility. She is serving as what Paul calls a “living sacrifice.”

Romans 12:1

[1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Mary is a very literal example of what Paul taught on here. She recognizes the greatness of Jesus, her heart overflows with love for Him as Savior and Messiah, so she communicates this as an act of humiliation.

Application - How Do You See Your Resources?

Do you see yourself as a living sacrifice? Do you see your passions, possessions, time, and talents as offerings that you can give unto the Lord? Better yet, do you see them all as His and not your own, given to you to steward, to manage, for His glory? Are you willing to humble yourself in service to your Savior? How often do the perceptions of others get in the way of you serving Jesus? You fear what others will think or say of you more than what Jesus will think.

Exalting Jesus Through Humbling

Just like we discussed with the costliness of the gift that Mary gave, when you are willing to humble yourself in service to Jesus, **you are communicating His worthiness. He is worth your sacrifice.** He is worth your doing that which is “beneath you” by the standards of this world. When you show that you care more for exalting Jesus than exalting yourself the world will take notice and begin to wonder what makes Jesus so wonderful. He is exalted.

4. Foreshadowing of Burial

The final observation I want to make about Mary’s gift is that it foreshadowed the coming death of Jesus. Now, there is debate over how much Mary understood concerning what was to become of Jesus. Some see this anointing as an intentional act of worship that acknowledged the impending death of Jesus. Fragrances such as spikenard were used to anoint the body before put in the tomb as a way to try to mask the inevitable smell that would come. Again, some argue that Mary knew this was coming so did this as an intentional act to acknowledge that impending reality. I think more likely she didn’t understand what was to come, **but foreshadowed Jesus’ death unknowingly, just as Caiaphas from our passage last week unknowingly spoke of the atoning work of Jesus’ death.**

Regardless of What Mary Knew...

Regardless of what she knew, **God was using this moment to foreshadow the death of Jesus,** which at this point in the Gospel of John is only a week out. Jesus even speaks to this reality when He tells Judas that the poor will always be with them, but He will not. He was preparing to walk through what we refer to as the Passion Week, the final week of Jesus’ life prior to His substitutionary death and victorious resurrection.

God Works Thru Us Even When We Don’t See It

I find it fascinating that **God finds ways to work for His purposes through our actions.** Mary was there to worship Jesus to express her gratitude and love for Him. **God used this in a bigger way.** He

used this to foreshadow the anointing that would come of Jesus' body while it temporarily lay dead in the tomb after He had laid down His life for His flock. I love seeing that God accomplishes His purposes through our actions even when we have no clue. **He is doing that right now in a million ways. All of the world leaders that are guiding countries...** it may seem as if nearly none of them have a love for God steering their hearts, but that doesn't mean that God isn't using them. **God is sovereign over all and masterfully orchestrates all of history!**

Summary of Mary's Gift

Mary's gift teaches us quite a bit, doesn't it? She shows us a lot about what true worship looks like. True worship is the treasuring of Jesus above all else in our hearts and that should be expressed through...

- It should be expressed through **giving of other treasures** that we have to show that Jesus is our True and Great Treasure.
- It should be expressed through **embracing the supremacy of Jesus** in all things, as the least of Jesus is worthy of the best of us.
- It should be expressed through the **humble service we employ as living sacrifices**.

Now our story doesn't end here. We have seen the most important element of our passage in Mary's worship, but Judas struggles over the extravagancy of the gift.

A CHALLENGE TO MARY'S GIFT

Listen to what Judas says once more...

John 12:4-6

[4] But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, [5] "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" [6] He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

So as Mary pours out this \$26,000 gift on Jesus' feet, Judas stands up to object, "What is going on? Think of how many people we could feed or cloth with that much money!" This sounds like a reasonable objection. Most of us have chosen to scale back on opulent options to be stretch our money further and accomplish more.

The Crux of the Problem

The crux of the problem with Judas' objection **doesn't center on the argument itself, but the heart behind it**. John reveals to us in verse 6 that Judas didn't raise this concern out of a heart for the poor, but rather **out of a heart of greed**. His eyes got big at how the sale of that nard could inflate his wallet. You see, he was a thief. He handled the group's money and apparently siphoned out funds for himself when he could. He cooked the books and laundered money, more or less.

Hiding Selfishness Behind Spirituality

This was the real problem and Jesus sees right through it and isn't having any of it. As we look at Judas' example we need to be careful not to hide our selfishness behind a faux piety. Judas was trying to sound spiritual in his response, "But what about the poor!!!" However, all he really cared about was Judas.

Keeping Up Appearances

It sounds awful, **but we have all been there. We have sinful desires that lurk within our heart, but we want to keep them hidden, we want to keep up the appearances of a “good Christian”** who would never give in to such temptations so we hide our true desires behind spiritual platitudes.

“The Lord Isn’t Leading Me...”

I have heard the phrase “The Lord just isn’t leading me in that direction” in so many dumb situations. I remember asking someone to come help with a service project on a Saturday morning. It was only going to be a few hours and the response I got was, “God isn’t leading me to that ministry.” What ministry? We were painting a few walls for a couple of hours. I wasn’t looking for someone to commit their life, just a few hours. I found out later that God had called that person to sleep in until noon, which is why he couldn’t really make it. **Don’t hide your selfishness behind spiritual platitudes, God sees through that and you mock Him when you shield your selfishness with words of piety.**

A RESPONSE FROM JESUS

As I said, Jesus sees through this and He responds to Judas. Listen to what He says...

John 12:7-8

[7] Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. [8] For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

Leave Her Alone

I love how Jesus opens up... “Leave her alone.” Get off her back. Stop bothering her. She is here worshipping me and you want to interfere with that? That is a dangerous place to be, to be the one who is actively trying to stand between God and one of His worshipping children.

Keep It

Jesus goes on to explain why Judas ought to leave her alone, it is so that Mary “may keep it for the day of my burial.” There is a lot of debate over what “it” is in this passage. Some believe it to be the ointment, but that would contradict the story. Mary has poured it all out. Some think Jesus is telling Judas to let Mary keep the credit for the act of worship, but that is a rather odd thing for Jesus to say. **I think the best explanation is that Jesus wants Mary to keep her awe, wonder, and worshipful heart for Jesus.** Her act of worship comes from this place and knowing that He is a week out from dying **He wants Mary, Martha, and Lazarus to keep the faith that is so strong here in this moment. There is no question everyone’s faith will be rattled and the death and burial of Jesus, so Jesus wants to fan the flames of her faith** in this moment to help keep her strong through the dark days that are to come.

A Special Opportunity

Jesus goes on to explain that the poor will always be here, but He won’t. Again, Jesus is foretelling of His death. The time that He has remaining is special. Mary, Martha, Lazarus, the Disciples, they all have a special opportunity to sit at the feet of Jesus, to worship Him in His presences, to audibly hear His voice, to be embraced by one of His hugs, these are opportunities that will soon be gone. Jesus knows this and thus encourages those there to take advantage of what will soon be unavailable to them.

Our Special Opportunity

Jesus was telling Judas that a special opportunity to worship Him stood before them. **I believe the same can be said of where we live now.** The reality is that our lives are nothing more than a vapor, a mist, as James writes, we are here one moment and gone the next. Life can feel long now, but it is fleeting and when we stand on the other side of eternity we are all going to wish we had done more. We

are going to see that the opportunity we had here was special. We have a chance to worship from hearts of faith, when we are not face to face with our Maker. We will wish we would have taken advantage of this more.

- We are going to wish that we had **worshipped Jesus more whole-heartedly.**
- We are going to wish that we had **served as a living sacrifice more consistently.**
- We are going to wish that we **held back less and gave more.**
- We are going to wish we had **humbled ourselves more.**

Jesus was telling Judas the time for extravagant worship towards Him was now. You are not promised anything more than “now” Christian, thus the time to worship Jesus extravagantly is now.

Passage Finale – More Plots of Murder

Our passage concludes right where we left it last week, plots of murder. There was already a plan in place to assassinate Jesus, now the religious leaders had set their sites on Lazarus as well as word was spreading that he was alive, the man the whole city knew to be dead. So people were coming to see if it was so. Lazarus’ life was a living monument to Jesus’ deity and power. That had to be shut down so they plotted on how they might kill Lazarus as well.

CONCLUSION

I opened tonight by asking you what true worship is. Is worship a song that we sing? Is it a time when we come together on Sundays? It can be expressed in both of those settings, **but the core of true worship is the treasuring, the valuing of Jesus above all else. Mary has given us a very practical image of how this heart of worship played out in her life.**

1. Treasuring Christ with Treasure

She showed the extravagance of her love for Jesus with a gift that had incredible value. In this she revealed that there is nothing in her life that she valued more than Christ. **Is there anything in your life that you would be unwilling to give? What treasures might you offer up to show that Jesus is your True Treasure?**

2. Supremacy of Jesus – Least of Jesus Worthy of the Best of Us

Mary also showed demonstrated the supremacy of Jesus in her worship. The least of Jesus is worthy of her best of us. **Don’t hold out on giving your best for Jesus for the perfect moment/situation. Jesus is worthy of your best everywhere.**

3. Living Sacrifice

Mary’s worship was poured out from a posture of humility. She was a living sacrifice, giving of herself. She stooped down low exalt Christ. **Is there anything that is “beneath you” in service to Christ? Is there anything you simply won’t do in serving Jesus?**

We Have Experienced More Than Mary!

There is no doubt that Mary’s extravagant act of worship was fueled by the awe and wonder of seeing Jesus raise her brother from the dead, **but Christian, haven’t you experienced more?**

A Greater Miracle

We bear witness in God’s Word to a greater miracle. Jesus, God, Maker of all things, The One who hold together all things, He laid down His life for you, taking upon Himself our sin, bearing the wrath of God. our punishment. that we wouldn’t have to if we would repent of our sin and place our faith in Jesus

as Lord and Savior. Jesus then rose Himself from the grave, taking up His life on His own, proving that He is the holder of life, He is the resurrection, as he stated in John 11. This is a far greater miracle. In this miracle Jesus purchased salvation.

Spiritual Life and Forever Resurrection

Now, for those who have repented of you sin, who have turned to Jesus in faith, **Jesus has imparted spiritual life to you that you may find salvation for your lost soul. He has also given the promise of resurrection life.** Unlike Lazarus' resurrection in John 11, this is a forever life that will never end and it places us in the fullness of joy forevermore.

Let's Treasure Christ Together!

So Mary's over-the-top response towards Jesus ought to be ours as well and as it is, Jesus will be glorified! Southern Hills, let's respond right now to our matchless Savior by going to Him in prayer and lifting up our voices to Him as an expression of our gratitude. Sing as if He is your True and Great Treasure!