

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **Pure Nard**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **June 10, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 12:1–11

¹Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. ³Mary 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. ⁴But 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?” ⁶He 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. ⁷Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

⁹When 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. ¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

[ESV]

Review and application:

1. A thank-you dinner (vv. 1-3) given by Lazarus' family to Jesus and his disciples was clearly appropriate. But what made these aspects of Mary's heartfelt gesture so significant? . . .
 - . . . Its expense
 - . . . Its departure from social norms
 - . . . Its humilityHow would Jesus soon display a similar stance of servant humility?
(See *John 13:1-5*.)
2. How (vv. 4-6) did Judas react to the extravagance of Mary's act?
How was this a preview (vv. 9-11) of his interaction with the chief priests?
3. But what did how Jesus countered Judas' objection (vv.7-8) reveal about . . .
 - . . . the honor and respect he showed women?
 - . . . the meaning and timing of Mary's act, and its relative significance?(See *John 12:23*.)
How is the cross the focus of God's gift to mankind? (See *1 Corinthians 2:2*.)
4. What acts of yours motivated by devotion to God have been criticized by others as excessive?
What assurance did Jesus provide to those who pour out their lives for him?
(See *Mark 9:41*.)
5. How does this statement of the martyred Jim Elliot apply to actions that some consider extravagant? “*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*”
What did Jesus say about the pervasive power of the fragrance of Mary's devotion? (See *Matt. 26:13*.)
How do we know her story was already widespread when John wrote his Gospel? (See *John 11:2*.)