



The Royal Corpse 23rd in the “Life in his Name” Series

John 12:1-11, p. 898

March 3, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches us how our worship of Jesus defines and directs our love and care for others.

The Text: John 12:1-11

- 1) The church’s weekly corporate worship is a continuous celebration of the resurrection (vv. 1-2, 9-11).
- 2) Marks of a true disciple of Jesus include generosity, self-effacement, and service (v. 3a).
- 3) Jesus is presented in this text as “the Royal Corpse” – the King who dies for his people (vv. 3b, 7).
- 4) This text teaches us how our (vertical) worship of God is connected to our (horizontal) care for those in need (vv. 4-6, 8).

Response

This passage explains how our love and worship of Jesus defines and directs our love and care for others.

- (a) *You care for the poor in your church life.*
- (b) *You care for the poor in your civic life.*
- (c) *You care for the poor in your personal life.*

Sunday Text Questions for John 12:1-11

March 3, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: How should a Christian respond when a poor person on the street asks us for money?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) This text is full of “symbolic actions” that need to be interpreted. What principles should guide how we interpret the symbolic stories in the Bible?
- 4) Reflect on v. 2. What do you think this celebratory gathering would have been like to attend and participate in?
- 5) How would you explain the intentions of Mary’s actions in v. 3, and how does Mary model for us ways we should give ourselves to Jesus?
- 6) Clearly Jesus affirms Mary’s actions and Judas does not. How is Jesus looking at Mary’s actions differently than Judas (vv. 4-6)?
- 7) V. 7 is important. How does Jesus extend the symbolic actions of Mary to his death on the cross, and what theological message does this have for us?
- 8) V. 8 is also important. How does this verse prioritize our devotion to Jesus over all other “devotions” and yet simultaneously direct us to care for the poor (for help balancing Jesus’ words and caring for the poor, read Deuteronomy 15:7-11).
- 9) What are some ways Christians can and should care for the poor?
- 10) Concluding summary: What *truths to believe* or *actions to obey* does this passage of Scripture teach us?

Further study this week: Deuteronomy 15 on grace to the poor (Mon); Proverbs 31:8-9, 20 on defending the rights of the poor (Tues); Job 34:16-22 on God’s warning for those do not care for the poor (Wed); Luke 4:16-21 on Jesus’ mission and care for the poor (Thurs); James 2 on how faith without works is dead (Fri).