AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAY JUNE 17TH, 2026

Study Series: That You Might Believe, A Journey through the Gospel of John
Part 20: Anointing, Triumphant Entry, and True Worship: Honor, surrender, public presentation

Text: John 12:1-19 (ESV) **Teacher: Pastor Nneoma Ewurum**

Introduction
John 12: 1-19 marks a major turning point in the Gospel of John, Jesus is approaching the cross. Within days, He will be betrayed, arrested, crucified, and glorified through His resurrection. This passage describes some of the events that took place during Holy Week, six days before Passover. Passover (Pesach)is one of the three big celebrations/festivals for the Jews. It commemorates the Exodus and liberation of Israelites form slavery in Egypt. Millions of Jews come from all different regions to celebrate this special feast. This passage covers three profound themes which we will study.

1. **Mary's Anointing** – Worship through honor, surrender and sacrifice.
2. **The Triumphal Entry** – Public presentation
3. **The Reactions of the Crowd and Leaders** – Worship tested by motives and allegiance.

Mary's Anointing. John 12: 1-7.

- Nard was a kind of perfume made from a special herb in India. Due to transportation at that time anything coming from as far as India would be extremely expensive. The nard was 300 denarii. It's the equivalent of 300 days wages for a blue-collar worker. That is almost an entire year's worth of income!
- Why would she do this? Was it a waste? Does this cause you to think about your own life—and your own sacrificial giving? What are you willing to "pour out on Jesus' feet"? Would you consider it to be a waste?
- Prophetic act – Foreshadowing of Jesus burial

True worship gives Jesus our best, not our remainder. Throughout Scripture, God rejects casual offerings. Malachi 1:8. Romans 12:1. 2 Samuel 24:24. David declared: "I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing." Worship always involves sacrifice.

- Worship honors Christ above all.
- Worship surrenders what is valuable.
- Worship publicly acknowledges Jesus as King.
- Worship is not performance but devotion.

*True worship looks like*_____

Judas viewed worship through the lens of utility. Mary viewed worship through the lens of love.

How can believers become like Judas in this passage without even realizing it?

The significance of Lazarus's Resurrection John 12:9-11, 17-19.

Bethany (just 2 miles from Jerusalem) was a pilgrim stop and now a tourist attraction that drew crowds because of Jesus and Lazarus.

The miracle becomes a testimony. Lazarus doesn't preach a sermon. His miracle and transformed life were the message, so much that the chief priests sought to kill him as well. Changed lives glorify Christ.

For the sake of the world, we need to operate in our spiritual gifts. For the sake of the world, we need to walk in the power and authority Christ has given us. For the sake of the world, we need to draw near to Christ.

The Triumphant Entry – Public Presentation. John 12: 12-16

- The Triumphant entry fulfills prophecy and publicly presents Jesus as King.
- The crowd cries: "Hosanna!" Meaning: "Save us now!" They acknowledge Him as Messiah.
- Kings typically entered cities on war horses, chariots, military processions while Jesus chose to ride on a donkey symbolizing His Kingdom of peace that advances differently from worldly kingdoms.
- Prophetic fulfillment - Zechariah 9:9. "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (NIV)

How do I publicly acknowledge Christ as King?

The Reactions of the Crowd and Leaders – Worship tested by motives and allegiance

Matthew 15:8: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me".

The crowd praises Jesus that day but within days reject Him and ask him to be crucified. He did not meet their expectations. They wanted a political king but instead Jesus came as a suffering Savior.

Worship based on revelation of who Jesus is will endure. This is why people will worship even in the deepest of storms and darkest of situations. Whereas, worship based on benefits/reward, crowd pleasing, rituals, head knowledge etc will eventually fade.

Crowd worship is emotional, temporary, self-centered. Mary's worship was sacrificial, personal, Christ centered. The crowd teaches us that enthusiasm is not enough; worship must be rooted in genuine revelation of Christ.

How can believers move from crowd worship to Mary's worship (true worship)?