

A Holiday Party with Remarkable Foreshadow

December 11, 2022 / Hudson View Baptist Church

Series: Living the Good Life (Gospel of John)

A Holiday Party with Remarkable Foreshadow

[John 12:1-11](#)

-In today's passage, there was a holiday party (of sorts) where there was eating, and quality time spent together, and even some negativity as sometimes creeps into gatherings this time of year.

-The people/events at this holiday party remind us of several aspects of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf in order to reconcile us as sinners to God, our holy Creator.

-The people/events of the holiday party in [John 12](#) serve as a "foreshadow" of Jesus' redemptive sacrifice for us.

-Summary of this event:

-6 days before the Passover—the yearly sacrifice and celebration of God's redemption of Israel back in Egyptian captivity—a celebratory time and a reminder of God's deliverance.

-There was a dinner prepared in a home and among others, Jesus, Lazarus, Mary, and Martha were all there.

-As they enjoyed this meal together, Mary approaches Jesus and anoints his feet with very expensive oil in a display of love/devotion.

-Judas, a disciple that we later find out betrays Jesus, ridicules Mary for wasting this expensive oil on Jesus when it could have been used for some other humanitarian aid.

-Jesus defends/commends Mary's show of devotion.

-Some others in attendance at this gathering were there to satisfy curiosity to see the former dead man, Lazarus.

-The religious leaders now plotted to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus.

-Other people walked away from all of this believing in Jesus as God's Chosen One to bring salvation.

1. The timing points to the Efficacy of the Sacrifice ([John 12:1](#))

-Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

-Jesus, as God's Lamb, would go on to be killed at the Passover time and the symbolism is incredible.

-When Jesus died in our place as God's Passover Lamb, He did it once and it was sufficient for all of sin.

-[Hebrews 10:10](#) says that by the will of God, we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

-[Heb. 7:27](#) says, [He] needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

-The timing of this party being near Passover time points us to the all-sufficient sacrifice of Jesus' blood for our sins.

-This was a sacrifice that was completely effective for our deliverance!

2. The attendance points to the Legitimacy of the Sacrifice ([John 12:2](#))

-There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

-Just a short time ago, Lazarus was dead/decaying in a tomb and here he is now sitting at a table eating a meal with Jesus/friends.

-How did this happen...through the resurrection power of God demonstrated through Jesus Christ—([John 11](#)).

-Rom. 1:4 says that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

-The miraculous presence of Lazarus at this party reminds us of the miracle of Jesus' resurrection coming up later that week.

-Without Jesus' resurrection, we'd have no victory/forgiveness of sin.

-1 Cor. 15:17-22, And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

3. The gift-giving is an Illustration of the Sacrifice ([John 12:3](#))

-Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

-Mary demonstrates her love & devotion to Jesus by anointing His feet with oil—essentially gifting Him with worship (CCEC)

-4 ways this gift-giving from Mary to Jesus illustrates the incredible gift Jesus gives to all mankind:

1) Expense of the gift

2) Purpose of the gift

3) Humiliation in the gift

4) Accessibility of the gift

-As this gift from Mary had to be accepted by Jesus, so must this gift from Jesus to mankind be accepted on an individual basis.

-Rom. 3:23-24, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace (gift) through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

-John 1:12, But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

4. The ridicule points to the Rejection of the Sacrifice ([John 12:4-6](#))

-Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

-At initial glance, Judas' concern seems legitimate—meeting needs of the poor—that's great!

-But this narrative tells us that Judas' handling of the money was underhanded (*he was a thief*)

-The saddest part is not his practice of stealing the money—the most devastating part is that he rejected Christ.

-To reject Christ is to forfeit any hope of eternal life with God in heaven.

-[John 3:36](#) says, *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

5. The defense points to the Realities in the Sacrifice ([John 12:7-8](#))

-Then said Jesus, *Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.*

-Jesus defends Mary's show of devotion by pointing out 2 events that are coming in the near future:

-His burial after His sacrificial death and His absence from this earth after His ascension back to heaven.

-An encouraging truth about His absence from the earth now is that He has gifted us with a few blessings to help guide/strengthen us:

1. **His Spirit** - [Jn. 14:16-17](#), *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth...*
2. **His Word** - [2 Pet. 1:3](#), *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*
3. **His Hope** - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

6. The reaction points to the Responses to the Sacrifice ([John 12:9-11](#))

-*Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.*

At least 3 responses to Jesus at/near this party:

1. **Curious Responses** - *that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead*
2. **Conspiring Responses** - *the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus*
3. **Rescued Responses** - *many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus*

Close:

-6 foreshadowing events at this holiday party:

1. The timing points to the Efficacy of the Sacrifice (1)
2. The attendance points to the Legitimacy of the Sacrifice (2)
3. The gift is an Illustration of the Sacrifice (3)
4. The ridicule points the Rejection of the Sacrifice (4-6)
5. The defense points to the Realities of the Sacrifice (7-8)
6. The reaction points to the Responses to the Sacrifice (9-11)