



“Sacrifice”
John Chapter 12
Week 6

Resource needed: A bottle of cologne or perfume

BIG IDEA:

Through the cross, Jesus has given those who believe in Him freedom from sin and the gift of eternal life.

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

The students should leave desiring to serve God even if it means having to make sacrifices.

🕒 APPROACH IT _____

Buy a cheap bottle of cologne or perfume and spray the room with it before the students enter. You want the kids to be overwhelmed with the smell when they come into the classroom. (John 12:3 “And the house was filled with the fragrance.”)

- † What is the most expensive item you own?
- † What is the most treasured item you own?
- † What is something you want that would require you to save your money?
- † What is something you value that money can't buy?

🕒 DISCOVER IT _____

Read John 12:1-3

- † Why would a dinner be held in Jesus' honor?

Mary had the myrrh perfume in an alabaster flask that hung around her neck. The flask was made from a transparent stone and inside it was a perfume that cost a years' wages! In order to open the bottle, the neck of it had to be broken. A modern day example would be the piggy bank you may have had when you were younger— when you wanted the money collected in it, the bank had to be broken.

It was common to anoint a dead body with a whole pint of perfume, but not someone who was living. The whole room was just oozing with the strong smell.

† How does Mary's action demonstrate her love and devotion to Jesus?

Answer: She sacrificed an expensive item to anoint his feet. This was an act of worship. She humbled herself and knew with her whole heart that Jesus was God's son.

ILLUSTRATE IT

Eric Fellman speaks of meeting a Chinese couple in Hong Kong, while traveling to China. "A friend took me down a narrow alley to a second-floor flat to meet a man recently released from prison in China. I knew I would be pressed to carry Bibles and literature on my trip, but I was hesitant and tried to mask my fear with rationalizations about legalities and other concerns. A Chinese man in his 60's opened the door. His smile was radiant, but his back was bent almost double. He led us to a sparsely furnished room. A Chinese woman of about the same age came in to serve tea. As she lingered, I couldn't help but notice how they touched and lovingly looked at each other. My staring apparently didn't go unnoticed, for soon they were both giggling.

"What is it?" I asked my friend. "Oh nothing," he said with a smile. "They just wanted you to know it was OK—they're newlyweds." I learned they had been engaged in 1949, when he was a student at Nanking Seminary. On the day of their wedding rehearsal, Chinese communists seized the seminary. They took the students to a hard-labor prison. For the next 30 years, the bride-to-be was allowed only one visit per year. Each time, following their brief minutes together, the man would be called to the warden's office.

"You may go home with your bride," he said, "if you will renounce Christianity."

Year after year, this man replied with just one word; "No." I was stunned. How had he been able to stand the strain for so long, being denied his family, his marriage, and even his health? When I asked, he seemed astonished at my question. He replied, "With all that Jesus has done for me, how could I betray Him?"

The next day, I requested that my suitcase be crammed with Bibles and training literature for Chinese Christians. I was determined not to lie about the materials, yet lost not one minute of sleep worrying about the consequences. And as God had planned, my suitcases were never inspected.

Eric Fellman, Moody Monthly, January, 1986, p. 33

† How did the Chinese man show his devotion and sacrifice to Jesus?

Possible Answer- He did not renounce Christianity and because of that he had to stay in prison for 30 years.

† How did Eric's actions show his devotion and sacrifice to Jesus?

Possible Answer- He crammed bibles in his suitcase for the Chinese Christians even though he could have been caught and punished.

Spend time on this question -

† What are we sacrificing in our lives for Jesus' sake?

Possible Answers: Our money (offering), our time (serving others, mission trips, coming to church), our belongings (giving items to the poor)

Read John 12:4-11

This action was wasteful in many eyes, especially Judas.

† What motivates Judas?

Answer: Greed

† How can money and material possessions steer us away from God?

Answer: They become more important than God



QUICK FACT _____

Jesus was frustrated with the disciples because he wanted them to understand the importance of what Mary was doing. This event takes place two months after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.



HIGHLIGHT IT _____

Read John 12:12-19

The news has spread about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, and all the hype has made the people believe that Jesus is the Messiah. They think he will save the Jews from the Roman Empire. The crowds welcome Jesus as King into the holy city of Jerusalem with

shouts of “Hosanna!” (which means save) and palm branches laid on the ground before Him. These actions are a political and noble gesture to show that the King-Messiah is here. Jesus has revealed, however, that He is the Savior not only for the Jews, but for the whole world.

Imagine what is going through the disciples minds through all of this hoopla. They too want Jesus to be King.

† Why do they want Jesus to be King?

Answer: They think they will be rewarded greatly if Jesus becomes King with power.

† What is the Pharisees reaction to all this?

Answer: They are jealous and ready to take action. They want to kill him.

Read John 12:20-36

† Why did the people not understand that Jesus would die? (Verse 34-36)

Answer: They had a different expectation of the Messiah. They thought He would reign and be King, not die. They were thinking earthly, not heavenly.

APPLY IT

Read John 12:37-50

It is stated that some of the Pharisees believed in Jesus, but were too afraid to confess their faith in Him for fear of being kicked out of the synagogue. They loved praise from men more than praise from God, which basically means they were committed to being a Pharisee rather than a follower of Christ.

They were not willing to sacrifice their reputation and livelihood as a Pharisee. (John 12:42-43)

- We see that sacrifice is demanded as a follower of Christ because Jesus set the example for us by sacrificing His life.

THE POINT

God loves us so much that he was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew would be His afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven.

Paraphrase of Hebrews 12:2

Spēnd time as a group in prayer.