

Passages to Ponder

1. Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.
2. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.
3. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.
4. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said,
5. "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"
6. This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.
7. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.
8. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."
9. Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.
10. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,
11. because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

Many books have been written on how to be a dynamic witness, dedicated servant and devoted worshiper, John simply illustrates this for us in eleven verses. He does so by taking us behind the scenes to the house of Simon the leper, to show us a dinner that Lazarus, Martha and Mary prepared for Jesus and His disciples. The purpose of this dinner was to spend time with Jesus and show Him their love and devotion. Simon who was healed of his leprosy showed Jesus his gratefulness by opening up his home to Jesus. Lazarus whom Jesus just raised from the dead in chapter 11 showed Jesus his joy and love by spending time in companionship over dinner. Martha showed Jesus her love and dedication and by serving Him and those who came with Him. Mary showed Jesus her love, worship, and care by humbling herself and anointing Jesus with perfume that was worth a year's wage, and then despite the mocking wiped His feet with her hair. During this time of focusing on Jesus in companionship, committed service and costly worship, they didn't realize it but they were examples of a witnesses, worker and worshiper. People also came to the house that day and saw Jesus' power in Lazarus changed life and they were changed. The same will be true for us in this house as we focus on Jesus and show Him our love and devotion through companionship through the word, commitment to be equipped for work and offering costly worship.