

Today we begin a short series as we countdown to Easter

We're looking at the events just prior to Jesus' death and resurrection.

There are Bibles in front of you and a sermon outline in the bulletin if you want to take notes.

Let me pray for God's help before we begin. Let's pray...

Promised King (2 Samuel 7:11b-17)

Some background to begin with...

In our OT Bible reading from 2 Samuel 7:11-17 [\[Please turn there now\]](#)

God spoke to the Prophet Nathan

[\[PowerPoint 1-Prophet Nathan/David\]](#)

And God gave a prophecy to the King of Israel at the time - King David

It's about 1000 BC

The prophecy is a series of promises

[\[PowerPoint 2-v12\]](#)

- V12 - Future kings will come from King David's family - starting with David's son, Solomon

[\[PowerPoint 3-v13\]](#)

- V13 - Even though David had offered to build God a house - God said, it will be, David's son, Solomon, who builds God's house - the Temple. And it will be a forever Kingdom

[PowerPoint 4-v14-15]

- V14 - God promised that His relationship with Solomon would be like a Father and Son relationship - and this promise also points to the Father and Son relationship of God the Father and Jesus, the Son
- V14 - When Solomon does wrong [can't refer to Jesus as He didn't do anything wrong), when Solomon does do wrong, he will be punished but not rejected like King Saul was (v15)

[PowerPoint 5-v16]

- V16 - The throne of King David and his family line will be a forever throne and a forever kingdom

Like many of the prophecies in the OT - they come true partly at the time they are given and come true completely in Jesus

[PowerPoint 6-OT partly true in Solomon]

- Solomon does become the next King of Israel
- Solomon does build a temple for God
- Solomon does do things wrong - he is punished - but never rejected
- King David's line lasts about 400 or so years - before the southern kingdom of Israel is carted off into exile in Babylon
- There were no kings of Israel by the time Jesus came
- There are no kings of Israel now

However...

[PowerPoint 7-Fullfilled in Jesus]

- Jesus - God's Son - is from the family line of King David

- Jesus is the King of Heaven and Earth
- And Jesus is the forever King and His Kingdom is a forever kingdom
- And Jesus has a spiritual house - where He is the cornerstone and we - as Christians - are the living stones building up His spiritual house
- So, Jesus completely fulfils these promises - made by God to the prophet Nathan - and given to King David

[PowerPoint 8a-Anointing]

When King David (1 Samuel 16) and King Solomon (1 Kings 39) became king - they were anointed with oil

In fact, all Kings and High Priests of Israel were anointed

The anointing showed that they were ***chosen by God*** - and ***set apart for service to God***

Along with the promise of an everlasting kingdom and king

God promised the people of Israel that He would send someone to deliver His people and save them

Naturally, the people of Israel were expecting a warrior type king, like King David - who would save them from the captivity and oppression of the likes of the Greeks and Romans.

But actually, what God was promising was someone who would deliver them from the captivity of sin!

The people of Israel - called this promised someone - the Messiah

[PowerPoint 8b-Anointed]

Messiah comes from the Hebrew word for anointed - which is ***Mashach***.

Messiah means "anointed one" or "chosen one". The Greek word for Messiah is Christos - and in English - Christ.

Hence the name Jesus Christ

Christ is not a surname - but a title

Jesus The Christ - Jesus The Messiah - Jesus The Chosen Anointed One

When Jesus came - He claimed to be - and He is - this Promised Messiah and King.

And as such - being the Messiah

He has been chosen for a special job by God

His job is not to be a military rescuer - but in fact to die for His people

As we come to our NT reading from John 12 - we are in the final week of Jesus' life.

Now as Jesus is the Messiah - the promised King - it stands to reason - He should be anointed - and marked as special - (Jesus has already been anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism [Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22 and John 1:31-34) - but there's still more anointing to come in our NT passage - which we'll get to in a moment...

How do we show we love someone?

Before, we look at our NT passage though

A question:

[PowerPoint 9a-Question]

How do we show we love someone?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 9b-Answers]

- Spend time with them
- Show affection
- Make them a priority
- Give them praise
- Praise them to others
- Appreciate them
- Be devoted to them
- Serve them
- Give them our all

Responses (John 12:1-11)

So now we can look at our NT Bible passage from John 12:1-11

[PowerPoint 10-John 12]

The context is - Jesus has just raised his friend, Lazarus, from the dead - in chapter 11

This miracle shows Jesus has the power of God - and the power over death itself

And it points to Jesus' own death and resurrection - to come in a week's time

So, in our passage from John 12

Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary live

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem - in the final week of His life

At Bethany, Jesus was the guest of honour at a dinner

It's implied that this dinner was because of Jesus' miraculous raising of Lazarus from the dead

Now, remember Jesus is the Messiah, the Promised King of Heaven and Earth

What responses will there be to Him - and how would we respond?

[PowerPoint 11-Responses]

Let's take a brief look

[PowerPoint 11a-Lazarus]

Lazarus (v2) - He's *forever grateful* for being raised from the dead - He holds a Resurrection Party in Jesus' honour. As Christians - are we forever grateful that Jesus' death has taken the punishment of sin away from us and given us forgiveness - and are we forever grateful that Jesus' resurrection has taken death away from us and given us eternal life?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 11b-Martha]

Martha (v2) - not surprisingly, *Martha served*. That's Martha's style - she's a practical woman. She shows her love for people and especially her love for Jesus by serving. What about us?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 11c-Mary]

Mary (v3) - Mary was *totally devoted* to Jesus. She broke all the rules to show her love for Jesus. Normally guests had their feet washed - with water - when they arrived at the house. Mary didn't wash Jesus' feet - she anointed His feet - and in the middle of the meal. And the custom was that women were to serve

at these meals not bring attention to themselves. Also, normally a person's head was anointed (Psalm 23:5) but Mary would not look so high as Jesus' head but instead she anointed His feet - a sign of her humility. Not only that, Mary, untied her hair - again breaking the custom of the day - women had their hair tied up in public. It was a sign of loose morals for a woman to untie her hair in public - but Mary didn't care - she loved Jesus so much.

She anointed Jesus - with expensive perfume - worth a year's wages (\$64,000 AUD). She gave the most precious and expensive thing she had to show how special Jesus was and is. ***She gave her all!*** Love is not love - if it calculates the cost. Love gives its all and its only regret is that it doesn't have more to give. True love is not self-conscious about showing that love? Mary loved Jesus so much that it didn't matter what others thought. What about us?

(pause)

There's a nice little phrase here from John at the end of v3

The house was filled with the fragrance of perfume

Like a lot of John's statements - they have a physical and spiritual meaning

In a physical sense - yes, the house was filled with that sweet fragrance of the perfume

In a spiritual sense - the whole Christian church down the ages has been filled with the sweet memory of Mary's demonstration of her love for Jesus. A love that we can all imitate.

(pause)

[PowerPoint 11d-Judas]

Judas (v4-6) - Judas was *cynical* at the expense poured out on Jesus. Judas was *jealous* of the attention Jesus got and Judas scoffed at the spectacle

Mary made of herself. And Judas complained it was a waste of money - and that the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor.

We're told too that Judas was the treasurer of the Apostle's group and he was a thief - who helped himself to the money!

But Judas had a warped view - he *didn't recognize how special Jesus is* - and his only concern was money.

Jesus Himself in the Sermon on the Mount - Matt 6:24 - said: **No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.**

We can also see how the temptation of stealing money - could lead Judas to betray his master for more money. One sin leads to another...

So, his complaint about Mary's extravagance and devotion was hypocritical.

What about us, do we scoff at other people's devotion to Jesus? Why would we do that, He's the King of Kings?

(pause)

Jesus (v7-8) - Jesus defended Mary's actions. *Leave her alone* - He says (v7).

The perfume she used - she intended to use for Jesus' burial. But she anointed Jesus there and then - symbolizing two things - a) Jesus is the Anointed One and Messiah - and b) He is going to die in less than a week's time - so she symbolized His death by anointing his body for burial.

Jesus also said - **you will always have the poor** - but they wont always have Him on Earth - in fact only for another week.

To help the poor was something that could be done at any time. To show the heart's devotion to Jesus had to be done before the Cross of Calvary took Him

away. It's a lesson for us to do things now, because the opportunity might not come along again - and the failure to do them - especially the failure to express our love when we could have done - brings great remorse and regret.

Mary's devotion showed - nothing is too expensive or extravagant for the King of Kings. Remember the gifts the Wise Men brought Jesus at His birth - were gold, frankincense and myrrh - all gifts fit for a King - Mary's gift is also fit for a King!

(pause)

[PowerPoint 11e-Large Crowd]

Large Crowd (v9) - There was a large crowd there. They came because they knew Jesus was there and they'd no doubt heard about all His miracles and especially about raising Lazarus from the dead. They want to see Jesus and Lazarus in the flesh. They're *curious and looking to believe* that Jesus is, who He says He is. There are people today, who are curious about Jesus. That curiosity needs to become a belief in Him as their Lord and Saviour. Perhaps that's where you're at today?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 11f-Chief Priests]

Chief Priests (v10) - well they're in *panic mode*. People are starting to believe in Jesus - especially after raising Lazarus from the dead!

If people started to believe in Jesus - the Chief Priests would have their position of power and wealth and authority threatened. The Romans allowed them to have quite a bit of freedom to govern themselves to some degree. But if there were to be an outbreak of disorder because people were following

Jesus, the Romans would come down heavily on them and their power and status would be gone. The Chief Priests saw Jesus as the possible leader of a rebellion.

There was also a theological problem for the Sadducees [a Jewish party of the time of Jesus – which included the chief priests – a party that denied the resurrection of the dead, denied the existence of spirits, and denied the oral traditions, and emphasized the acceptance of the written Law alone] as the Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead - and they were now confronted with a resurrected Lazarus - unless they could do something about it, the foundations of their power, influence and teaching would slip away beneath their feet.

So, they're not only planning to kill Jesus (John 11:45-57) but now they plan to kill Lazarus as well. They are so afraid of the truth - they want to **remove the evidence** of Jesus' miracle and **deny who Jesus' really is**. People today, want to deny the evidence of Jesus and deny who Jesus really is! Perhaps that's where you're at today?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 11g-Believers]

Believers (v11) - then there were the ones who ***genuinely believed in Jesus***. They'd seen the evidence presented to them and they'd heard Jesus' teaching and they had no doubt He was God's Chosen Messiah - the Anointed King!

(pause)

[PowerPoint 12-Applications]

Applications

[PowerPoint 12a-App1]

1. Who are you like in the story?
 - a. Forever grateful like Lazarus
 - b. Serving like Martha
 - c. Devoted like Mary
 - d. Cynical like Judas and jealous of the attention people give to Jesus
 - e. Curious and looking to believe like the large crowd
 - f. Denying the evidence of Jesus and denying who He really is like the Chief Priests
 - g. Believing that Jesus truly is the Saviour of the world

(pause)

[PowerPoint 12b-App2]

2. How much do you serve Jesus? Are you like Martha who shows her love to Jesus by serving? How could you serve Jesus more?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 12c-App3]

3. How much do you love Jesus? Are you devoted to Him, like Mary? Are you coming to His feet to worship Him, to listen to Him and to learn from Him? Are you giving Him your ALL like Mary did? Or are you holding back? How could you love Jesus more?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 13-Love]

The bottom line is: ***We cannot love Jesus too much.*** That should be our response to the King of Kings

(pause)

Let's Pray...