

What's Your Devotion Quotient?

Palm Sunday

Pastor Carl Toti

March 19-20, 2016

John 12:1-8 (NLT)

¹ Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. ² A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. ³ Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." ⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. ⁷ Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial." ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

DEVOTION: love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause.

1. DEVOTION WILL COST SOMETHING

John 12:3 (NLT)

"Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance."

Jewish women never let their hair down in public because a woman's glory was in her hair.

1 Corinthians 11:15 (NKJV)

"But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering."

This act was a demonstration of Mary humbling herself before her Master. Mary did this because unlike her counterparts; the other disciples, she understood the sacrifice Christ was about to offer.

2. DEVOTION WILL CAUSE SOMETHING

John 12:4-6 (NLT)

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." ⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself."

Judas is a polar opposite of Mary. One's a selfless act of devotion; the other, a selfish act of causing a commotion. These are the first recorded words of Judas; not words of praise, adoration and thanksgiving, but of murmuring and complaining.

Judas was a devil (John 6:70-71)
Judas was a thief (John 12:6)
Judas was a hypocrite (John 13:18)
Judas was the son of perdition (John 17:12)

3. DEVOTION WILL CONFIRM SOMETHING

Mark 14:6-9 (NKJV)

"⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷ For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. ⁹ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

Several years ago, the late Gerald G. May; an American psychiatrist and theologian, defined six criteria for judging the legitimacy of spiritual surrender. This was his term for what we are here calling the norm of Jesus devotion. Thus, his criteria worked just as well for evaluating our decision to be devoted to Jesus. The six are as follows, along with May's descriptions of them:

1. CONSCIOUS
2. INTENTIONAL
3. RESPONSIBLE
4. CONSEQUENTIAL
5. SPIRITUAL
6. ALIVENESS