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### **The Theology of Waste**

**John 12:1-11** <sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>So they hosted a dinner for Jesus there. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup>Then Mary took about a pint of expensive perfume, made of pure nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was going to betray Him, asked, <sup>5</sup>"Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. As keeper of the money bag, he used to take from what was put into it. <sup>7</sup>"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "She was intended to keep this perfume to prepare for the day of My burial. <sup>8</sup>The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have Me." <sup>9</sup>Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews learned that Jesus was there. And they came not only because of Him, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup>So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, <sup>11</sup>for on account of him many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus.

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. This happened just five days before the **crucifixion**. V.1
- B. This event was held in the hometown of **Lazarus** and his sisters. V.1-2
- C. Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anointed Jesus's feet with expensive **perfume**. V.3
- D. Judas protested that it was a **waste**. V. 4-5
- E. Judas's motives were **sinful**. V.6
- F. Jesus **defended** her. V. 7
- G. Jesus made a strong **declaration** about the poor and about Himself. V.8
- H. A large **crowd** gathered because of Jesus and because Lazarus was there. V.9
- I. The chief priests decided to add Lazarus to the **kill list**. V. 10-11

II. Why is this short passage so important and what can we learn from it?

- A. This shows us what our view on **death** should be. Shortly before this there was a scene of great sorrow, now there is a celebration. Sorrow is still to come.
- B. There is a time for **extravagance**.
- C. It is important that each of us ask God for a **pure heart** in our giving to Him.
- D. We will never solve the poverty problem. Preaching the **Gospel** still has got to be a top priority for us.
- E. Our enemy has a **predictable** pattern. If he cannot corrupt, he tries to kill.
- F. We must all learn to tell our **stories**.