

Scripture John 12

“...unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” John 12:24

Main Truth: Loving God more than anything else is the best way to live.

(Use different voices for each quote)

“Is He coming?” “Do you think He will come to the Passover?”
“Oh, I can’t wait to see Jesus come to set up His Kingdom!” “Do you really think He is the One God promised?”

Oh my! Many people were wondering about Jesus! Jerusalem was a big city filled with many people and everyone in Jerusalem was talking about Jesus! News that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead had spread to all the people. No one but God could make someone dead come alive again! Now everyone wondered if Jesus would become the King they had waited for.

Jesus was staying in Bethany at this time. He was at a dinner eating with His friends. Lazarus was there and Martha was serving the dinner. People were so happy to spend time with Jesus. It was a nice dinner. After dinner was over, the people were still at the table talking. As they talked, Mary came toward

Jesus. Mary had something very special. Mary had a very special gift for Jesus. Mary's gift for Jesus had cost a lot of money. It was a very special perfume. It was such a wonderful smelling perfume! It was the very best thing Mary had ever had. Now Mary wanted to give her very best gift to Jesus.

Mary had been listening very closely to all the words Jesus said. Mary thought about Jesus' words. Mary also remembered the words written in her Bible that told what Jesus would have to do to pay for her sin and the sins of the whole world. Mary understood that Jesus was soon going to go to the cross to die. Mary wanted Jesus to know how much she loved Him before He died. Mary realized that Jesus was going to do something very hard. She also wanted Jesus to know He was her king. Mary wanted Jesus to know that she loved Him more than anything else and that she believed Him.

Mary opened the perfume. In front of everyone she poured the perfume out...some on Jesus' head to show that He was her King and some on His feet, where she knelt down and started to cry. She knew Jesus would die, she wanted Him to know she loved Him more than anything. Mary wiped the perfume on Jesus' feet with her hair. This showed everyone that Jesus was very important. The whole house filled with the beautiful smell of the perfume. Everyone saw how much Mary loved Jesus.

Mary showed loving God more than anything else is the best way to live.

Judas was one of the men there. He did not love Jesus more than anything. Judas loved money more than Jesus. Judas saw the expensive perfume poured out on Jesus and said, “What a waste! This perfume could have been sold and given to poor people.” But Judas didn’t care about poor people. He did not love Jesus, he just wanted to take money and power for himself.

Jesus told Judas to be quiet. “Leave her alone!” Jesus said. “She has done a beautiful thing for Me!” Jesus knew that Mary loved Him more than anything else.

The next day, Jesus went to Jerusalem. The people became very excited! They ran out to meet Him. Mommies and daddies and little children. Old people and young people lined the streets.

“Hosanna, Save us now!” They cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Hosanna means “save now”). It was a big celebration. People were so happy that Jesus had come. But they didn’t realize that Jesus came to save them from their sins, not just the mean leaders. They did not realize that Jesus was going to die on the cross soon.

It was going to be a very hard time for Jesus in Jerusalem. But Jesus knew that this plan for Him to pay for the sins of the world was the BEST plan ever. Jesus knew it was God, His Father’s Will for Him to die for sins. Jesus knew if He died, everyone who believed in Him could live forever in His family.

Jesus tried to tell the people. He said it like this, “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” God said Jesu’ death on the cross would save many people. Jesus loved God, His Father, and trusted His plan. Jesus obeyed because He loved God His Father more than anything else. Jesus **knew loving God more than anything else is the best way to live.**

Q & A

Who was at the dinner party for Jesus?

Who was serving?

Who had Jesus raised from the dead?

What did Mary do after dinner?

Why?

Who did Mary love more than anyone or anything?

What did Judas say?

What did Judas love?

What is the best way to live? Who will we love most?

What did people do when they heard Jesus was coming to Jerusalem?

What does Hosanna mean?

How was Jesus going to save the people?

Whose plan was it?

Who did Jesus love most of all?

We will show the children apple seeds. Pictures of Apple trees and then cut open a apple to see more seeds. And then show a grove of apple trees to try to help them see.

Infant story:

Jesus was coming!

People were excited that Jesus was coming.

Mary was excited when Jesus came to dinner.

Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus.

Mary loved Jesus so much, she wanted Him to know she loved Him more than anything else.

Mary showed Jesus she loved Jesus more than anything else.

Then Jesus went to the city.

The people had a parade for Jesus as He came into the city.

Jesus knew He would soon die for all people's sin, that was the plan of God.

Jesus came because He loved God His Father more than anything else.

Loving God more than anything else is the best way to live.