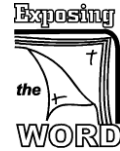




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The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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27- One Served, One Worshipped, One Coveted, Some Plotted *John 11:54-12:11*

The characters of the drama that is unfolding before us are Mary and Martha the sisters of Lazarus, the resurrected Lazarus and Judah along with Christ.

A study into the different personalities of these individuals as they relate to Christ is interesting. We know this will be the last public appearance of Christ before He is crucified.

I- Wanted Man:

If this had been the old west days they would have put wanted posters on all the post and poles around town proclaiming the Jesus was a wanted man.

John 11:54 Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly among the Jews... Before we get to thinking He was withdrawing because of fear it was not that. It was not quite His time yet.

So Jesus goes into the country side to get away. *54b...but went away from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples.*

II- Will He Go To Passover?

The question that rises among the people is if He will come to Passover. Many had already come to the city so they could get ready for the Passover.

John 11:55 Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover to purify themselves. 56 So they were seeking for Jesus, and were saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?" 57 Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders

that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might seize Him.

They gave orders that He was to be seized if anyone saw Him.

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III- Visit With Lazarus:

John 12:1-11 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him.

We see the fact that Lazarus was there whom Jesus had raised from the dead it stated. We do not have a single word uttered by Lazarus recorded but his life spoke. Remember what the rich man argued in *Luk 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*

We here sat display number one of one who was from the dead.

IV- One Served:

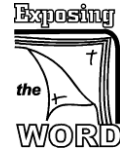
We also notice that Martha was serving. She was showing her love to the Lord by her actions that expressed her feelings. However one important thing we can learn from the parallel gospel accounts is that not all people serve God the same way you do. Notice *Luk 10:38-40 NASB Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. 40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left*



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me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Let us be careful to not attach such importance to the work we do that we make others less spiritual or less of a Christian because they do things different. Martha learned this from the mouth of the Messiah. **Luke 10:41-42** *But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

V- One Worshipped:

While Martha served Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus listening and worshipping. She also anointed Jesus for burial.

Joh 12:3 *Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.*

Warren Wiersbe says about this:

“When she came to the feet of Jesus, Mary took the place of a slave. When she undid her hair (something Jewish women did not do in public), she humbled herself and laid her glory at His feet. Of course, she was misunderstood and criticized; but that is what usually happens when somebody give his or her best to the Lord.” (p 339)

If we look at all the parallel gospel accounts we see she anointed His head and his feet. She also did not go to the tomb to anoint His body that morning because she had already done so before His death.

What a beautiful picture of faith being expressed toward the Messiah. Beloved Jesus was verified as the Messiah in this heart in a very special way.

VI- One Coveted:

The fragrance of the very expensive perfume filled the house. This brings to the forefront of the picture one named Judas. Judas was the keeper of the money that this group had. The true colors of Judas comes out. Merrill Tenney said, “Judas exhibited lack of tact that was amazing in a man naturally as astute as he when he said, “why was not this ointment sold...” (p 183)

John 12:4 NASB *But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?" 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.*

Wells seems to appear that Judas alone had any concern for the poor. Judas wanted to know why the perfume was not sold and given to the less fortunate. Some think this was worth perhaps as much as a whole year’s wages. One the surface he seems the picture of concern. But we know better, he was a thief.

Judas starts the criticism of Mary for what she had done. Sad to say in the parallel gospel we find that the others picked up the criticism and voiced their own. **Mar 14:4-5** *And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.*

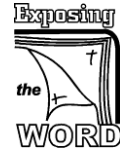
We see the selflessness of Mary and the selfishness of Judah here. Judah was not concerned for the poor but wanted to get his hand in the money. The others followed Judas led to critics what they did not fully



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understand. Judas was looking through eyes of greed and worldliness while the act was done with spiritual application.

Jesus quickly comes to the defense of Mary. *John 12:7-11 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. 8 For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.*

Jesus again openly announces His coming death when He said she had done the deed He would not always be with them. *The Messages* gives us *John 12:7 Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honoring the day of my burial.*

VII- Some Plotted:

The greatest witness that ever lived may have been the man who lived again after he died. Lazarus was that man. The Jewish leaders remember have already put out an arrest order for Jesus. They did not care for the truth anymore only self preservation. The fact that Lazarus was a living breathing miracle of Christ put them in danger.

Jesus had already called them the children of the devil. *Joh 8:42-44 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.... 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

They would not accept the evidence of the power of God that was working in Christ so they tried to get rid of the evidence. The fact that Lazarus was living and breathing was a great verification of the fact that Christ was Messiah.

John 12:9 Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; 11 Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

I submit that the fact that they wanted to put Lazarus to death again gives us another verification of the Messiah. There were many who were coming to the Messiah because of his witness of life.

Would the plot work? Lazarus is mentioned for the last time in *Joh 12:17* where the people bear records of the events of the resurrection of Lazarus. *The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.*

John 12:17 NASB So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him.

They verified the Messiah... *John 20:30-31 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

VIII- Which One Are We:

I have the question running through my spirit that keeps asking which one of these are we. Are we Martha that worked and though all should do as I do. Or Mary that had the best because of the personal time. Or perhaps a Judas who leads out in criticism that condemnation. Or perhaps a little of those that plotted to get their way in us.