



The Gospel According to John

Lesson 23: [John 12:1-11](#)

March 24, 2015

1. Preparation: Read [Matthew 26:6-13](#) and [Mark 14:3-9](#). Pray. Write out and memorize [John 12:25](#).

2. Study: [John 12:1-11](#). Read [Köstenberger, Encountering John](#), Chapter 10, pages 117-120.
 - a. **Observation:** What do the Scripture passages say?
 - (1) **Where** is Jesus at the start of this Scripture passage and **why**?

 - (2) **Where** was Jesus just before this event? ([John 11:54](#))

 - (3) **What** day of the week was it (how soon before the Passover celebration)?

 - (4) **What** are the similarities and differences between this event and the one in [Luke 7:37-50](#)?

 - (5) **What** was Judas' issue with the use of perfume at this event?

 - (6) **How** expensive was this perfume in today's dollars?

 - (7) **How** did Jesus respond to Judas?

 - (8) **Why** did the crowd come out to see Jesus?

 - (9) **What** was the view of the Jews toward both Jesus and Lazarus?

 - b. **Interpretation:** What does the Scripture passage mean?
 - (1) Did Jesus consider this public display as extravagant or "over the top"? **Why** or **why not**?

 - (2) **What** is an accurate common phrase for Jesus' statement, "*Leave her alone*"?

(3) **How** do the parallel verses ([Matthew 26:6-13](#) and [Mark 14:3-9](#)) view this display? **Why** are these Scripture passages different?

(4) **How** does the position of the Jews evolve after Jesus' raising of Lazarus? Explain.

c. **Application:** How will you apply this Scripture passage in your life?

(1) In his book, *Living Above the Level of Mediocrity*,¹ Chuck Swindoll calls this display, "Extravagant Love." **What** makes it extravagant?

(2) Is it hard for you to demonstrate extravagant love toward God or others? **Why** or **why not**?

(3) **How** would you have responded if you were sitting at that table?

(4) If you were not invited, but had heard of this event, would you have gone? **Why**?

(5) **Consider** these two phrases and provide a description of **why** they apply in this setting:

a. Purity of Motive -

b. Urgency of the Hour -

(6) **How** might the following excerpt from James Russell Lowell's poem, *For An Autograph*, apply to our lesson?

Life is a leaf of paper white
Whereon each one of us may write
His word or two, and then comes night.

Greatly begin! Though thou have time
But for a line, be that sublime--
Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

3. Write out [John 12:25](#) from memory.

4. Read [John 3:16-21](#). Conclude your study time with prayer.

¹ Swindoll, Charles R., *Living Above the Level of Mediocrity*, (1987, 1989, W Publishing Group); Ch 4.