

FAMOUS OR INFAMOUS

The Determining Factor

John 12:1-8

Introduction:

Famous: having a widespread reputation; especially of a favorable character

Infamous: having an extremely bad reputation; to experience public reproach, or strong condemnation as the result of a shameful, criminal, or outrageous act

1. A Famous Act of Worship

A) Mary is famous for worshipping Jesus Christ

> If Mary had poured her perfume on Caiaphas the high priest ... we'd never know about it.

> Mary is famous for her extravagant worship of Jesus

Extravagant in its value

Extravagant in its administration

It *was* unusual to anoint the feet and wipe them with your hair (John 12:3)
Only the servant, the lowest servant washed feet (John 13)
Respectable women did not let their hair down in front of men

B) Mary's worship invites us to take a deeper look at her story

> Mary has a distinguishing characteristic about her that is highlighted in the gospels

We always find her at Jesus' feet
The place of a student (Luke 10:38-42)
The place of submission (John 11:32; 12:3)

> Mary appears to be the first person to understand that Jesus was going to Jerusalem to die

The disciples certainly didn't understand - although Jesus clearly told them (Mark 8:31; 9:30-32; 10:32-34)

Their concern was for their place in His kingdom (Mark 9:33-34; 35-37)

Then how could Mary know this?

Mary listened carefully to Jesus and did not have ulterior motives

God the Father opened her ears to hear and understand so that she would minister to His Son as He took His final steps to the cross

2. An Infamous Act of Betrayal

A) Judas is Infamous for total disregard for Jesus

> His response to Mary's worship

On the surface ... self righteous indignation (John 12:4-5)

But in his heart ... selfish gain

> His relationship to Jesus revealed

After this event, Judas decides to pursue the bounty offered by the religious leaders (Matthew 26:14-16)

B) Judas is Infamous because of his unique opportunity

> Judas had a very unique relationship with Jesus Christ

Judas was one of the twelve – a Student of Rabbi Jesus (Matthew 13:10-18)

Judas witnessed most of Jesus' miracles (Matt. 14:23-33; John 11)

Judas even participated in some of the miracles (John 6:11-15; Luke 9:1-6)

C) Judas is Infamous because of his great folly

> Judas believed that Jesus was the means to get what he wanted most (Matthew 26:14-16)

> Given one of the greatest opportunities in the history of mankind, Judas believed that 30 pieces of silver were more valuable than the eternal Son of God ... an infamous fool

> Judas should have listened to Jesus more carefully (Mark 8:38)

Later in John's gospel Judas is identified as "the son of perdition" (John 17:12)

Time has a unique way of putting perspective on history ... and the actions of a person's life

Mary – 2000 years after her death we're still talking about her extravagant worship of Jesus Christ

Judas – 2000 years later he is still the standard for infamy and folly

Paul's perspective on "reasonable" worship (Romans 12:1)