

MATTERS OF THE HEART

John 12:1-8

INTRODUCTION: In Matthew 6:21 our Lord Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there your heart be also. Our text for tonight: John 12:1-8 tells the story of two treasures, two hearts, and two lives headed in two totally different directions. When Jesus speaks of the heart He is not talking about the blood pump in our chest; He is speaking of the center of our lives, the focus of our love, affections, and priorities. We are told to guard our hearts: Proverbs 4:23.

I. TWO TREASURES: TWO HEARTS: TWO LIVES WITH DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS

On the Saturday before the Triumphal Entry, Jesus went to Bethany to Simon the Leper's house whom Jesus had healed of leprosy. The guest included Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead and his sisters Martha and Mary. Both Matthew and Mark connect this story with Judas. They want us to see Judas despicable act in contrast with Mary's act of devotion. Both Mary and Judas were followers of Jesus. Both Judas and Mary had seen Jesus miracles. Both were guest at Simon, the Leper on the Saturday before the cross. On the surface they had much in common but when it came to the heart the two couldn't have been any more different. Mary pours her bottle of nard worth a year's wages on Jesus feet. Judas began to complain about Mary's extravagance: John 12:4-6 and the other disciples chimed in.

II. GIVERS AND TAKERS

Mary was a giver. Judas was a taker. Jesus came to Mary's aid and said "She did what she could." Mary gave extravagantly while Judas actually had the habit of stealing what others gave. Remember our Lord's words: Acts 20:35. The biggest contrast: Mary honored Jesus and Judas betrayed Him. 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

III. TWO DIFFERENT ENDINGS

These two very different lives had very different endings. Jesus said Mary will be remembered whenever His story is told. Mark 14:8-9. Now everybody remembers Judas as well but for a very different reason. Judas story does not end well, He betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, the price in those days of a common slave. Judas concluded his act of treachery with a kiss, an act of pretended friendship. In Matthew 27:1-10 we see that Judas repented himself of his great sin and through the money into the temple. Let's contrast Judas repenting himself with godly repentance: 2 Corinthians 7:10. William Borden wrote in his Bible "No Reserves." "No Retreats." "No Regrets." A short life or long, rich or poor, every life can be lived with no regrets. Remember it is always a matter of the heart. Psalm 139:23-24