

COSTLY LOVE!
Matthew 26:6-13

INTRODUCTION: Valentine's Day is the third biggest day of the year for buying gifts. A full 70% of people in America buy their sweethearts a Valentine's Day present. Today we will look at how much is too much love when it comes to our Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew, Mark, and John all write about this time and the fact that Lazarus, Mary and Martha are all there. It is Jesus last week on this earth before He is going to His Father's house. Today, we will look at the love of Jesus from four different types of love shown to Him.

I. ANTAGONISTIC LOVE: IF WE CAN CALL IT LOVE!

Jesus' adversaries here displayed antagonistic love. For Jesus three and a half years of public ministry his adversaries had plotted against him, mocked him and tried their best to get others against him. Why would these who claimed to love God take such an attitude toward Jesus? First, Jesus did not meet their expectations of what the Messiah would do. Second, Jesus refused to honor their "sacred cows." Mark 7:5-15.

II. A TREACHEROUS LOVE!

The Apostle Judas demonstrated a treacherous love. Everyone knew where Jesus opponents stood but Judas was a different story. Behind the smiling face lurked an evil like no other. Judas actually betrayed Jesus with a kiss. What a contrast to Mary's act of love to Judas' act of treachery. Matthew 26:14-16. Was the love of money the reason for Judas' betrayal? 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

III. MARY'S EXTRAVAGANT LOVE!

Against the backdrop of Judas treacherous love, we see the extravagant love of Lazarus sister, Mary. John 12:1-3. This bottle of perfume was worth 300 denarius, and amount equal to the entire annual income of a working man at that time. Mary was preparing Jesus body for His burial: John 12:7. The point here is not so much the money involved, but the love expressed. Mary's love flowed from her gratitude to her Lord. Mary had sat at Jesus' feet listening to Him when others were busy with their own plans and activities. Mary had seen many miracles including Jesus raising her own brother, Lazarus from the dead. Mary had heard Jesus say He would soon die for her sins and the sins of others: How do you say thank you for such love? How do you say thank You for such love?

IV. CHEAP LOVE!

Now we will look at the cheap love of the disciples of Jesus Christ and pray we do not share in their kind of love. Mary's extravagant love is not contrasted here with antagonistic love, treacherous love, but is contrasted with a love that says "Let's not get too carried away" kind of love. Could we dare call it "cheap love?" What a waste! Matthew 26:6-12. The words of our Lord Jesus echo the words spoken in Deuteronomy 15:7-11. The point here is that we share because of who our God is and who He is making us. It is a matter of the heart! Cheap love finds excuses not to give to others needs. Extravagant love looks for ways to show its gratitude and express its devotion to the Lord. Extravagant love sees the blessings of the Lord and longs to honor Him by honoring Him as we give His love to others. 2 Samuel 24:22-25. May our Lord fill our hearts with His extravagant love! John 3:16.