

Introduction

1. When studying Jesus on abiding, learned there's vry clear process to Christian living.
 - a. **Faith in Christ → Love for Christ → Obedience to Christ's Word.** (Show)
 - b. If try to love w/o faith, there will be no connection point. Faith essential to relationship.
 - c. Then love will come naturally and we will want to learn more about Christ & love more.
 - d. Then when our love's growing we'll want to obey Him more/more. Abiding = process.
 - e. Must work this way. When faith in Christ growing, love will grow & obedience grow.
 - f. **The one who lives by faith is internally motivated by love for God and Christ which supernaturally issues forth in reverent worship, genuine obedience, and self-sacrificing love for others.** (Show)¹
 2. Today we want to see this process fleshed out in a real life follower of Jesus, Mary.
 - a. Mary was a believer who loved Jesus deeply, & gave her all to Him in obedient worship.
 - b. (Text/Title) Mary teaches us what growing love for Jesus really looks like.
 - c. This kind of love stems from growing faith & will always lead to obedient worship.
- I. **Loving Jesus Is Costly, vv. 1-3.** (Show Image)²
- A. **Anointing Jesus**
 1. Unnamed woman = Mary, sister of Lazarus & Martha (see John 12:1-8).
 2. **Alabaster flask** = small stone flask w/long slender neck. (Show Image)³
 - a. **Ointment pure nard, very costly** – pure nard, aromatic oil from rare plant root, India.
 - b. People reclined at banquets & it was customary pour few drops on honored guest.⁴
 - c. Mary poured all on Jesus' head, then on feet & wiped His feet w/hair, John 12:3.
 3. Very likely was a family heirloom,⁵ status symbol her family very proud of owning.⁶
 - a. **300 denarii** = annual income of blue collar worker. Today = \$30-35,000.00⁷
 - b. Today, be like inheriting an expensive family diamond & then giving it away.
 - B. **Mary's Reasoning**
 1. In O.T., kings were anointed before they began their rule, 1 Samuel 10:1; 16:13.
 - a. Messiah = anointed one and Mary recognized Jesus as the Royal Messiah.
 - b. By lavish, expensive anointing, declared Him not just any king of Israel.
 - c. She declared him King of all kings and Lord of all lords.
 - d. She knew Psalm 2:12, **Kiss the Son...Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**
 - e. By giving very best was revealing her absolute love & complete devotion to Jesus.
 2. **Lesson: True love is always costly.**
 - a. **Come to believe if luv = real luv, if luv someone way ought to luv, always costly thing in your life.**⁸
 - b. If really luv Jesus as ought, be passionate do what says, go where wants, be etc.
 - c. One of the great statements come down to us came from C.T. Studd.

¹ MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed., p. 1797). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

² <http://www.ordinarybeliever.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Anointing-crop.jpg>. Accessed 10/19/17.

³ <https://waytruthlife2015.wordpress.com/2015/12/31/jesus-anointed-at-bethany/>. Accessed 10/19/17.

⁴ Barclay, W. (Ed.). (1976). *The Gospel of Mark*. (p. 236) Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press.

⁵ Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior*. Vol. 2, p. 146. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.

⁶ Keener, C. S. (1993). *IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁷ <https://www.salaryexpert.com/salary/job/blue-collar-worker/united-states>. Accessed 10/19/17.

⁸ Pastor Jerry Vines. *Exploring the Gospels: Mark*. Chicago: Moody Press, p. 257.

- i. Star cricket player in England w/famous future. Left all for China/India/Africa.
- ii. **If Jesus Christ be God & died for me, then no sacrifice is too great for me to make for Him.**
- iii. (Show)⁹ I'd only add one check here. It must be a sacrifice Jesus approves of.
- d. Not everyone can make the same sacrifices; not all should make same sacrifices.
- e. But if not making any sacrifices in how live, where go, what do, not loving Jesus.

II. **Loving Jesus Is Risky, vv. 4-5.** (Show)

A. **Disciple's Criticizing**

1. Mary was probably shocked by the reaction she got. **They scolded her.**
 - a. She wasn't the last one to be blown away by an insensitive critic.
 - b. **Scold = snort like an angry horse.**¹⁰ They snorted their indignation at her.
 - c. They really ripped into her big time. Who? Mark does not tell us. Priests/scribes?
 - d. John 12:4-6 says Judas who was a thief & was stealing from moneybag, vv. 10-11.
 - e. Matthew says rest of disciples joined Judas, Peter, James, John, etc., Mt. 26:8-9.
2. Mary was a disciple too. Not 1 of 12, but follower of Christ as they were.
 - a. So what we have are disciples criticizing one of their own. For what?
 - b. Not anything sinful, nothing wrong, but for something unconventional.
 - c. Criticized her because showed love for Jesus in way personally disapproved of.
 - i. That it was wasteful. This would never happen in our church, would it?
 - ii. This never happens between Bible believing churches, does it?
 - iii. We don't attack each other for being different, do we?
 - d. **Pastor I know from the Soo said a negative, carpingly-critical, fault-finding spirit has done more damage in church than smoking, dancing, movie-going & many other things we like to Amen! against. (And you know what judgmental background he was raised in to mention those things.)**
 - i. Wow! Strong words. Probably right. Too much horse snorting by Christians.
 - ii. More people hurt by hypercritical/censorious spirit than much we condemn.
3. (**Show Philippians 2:14-15**)¹¹ I knew a pastor who witnessed to lady said never sinned.
 - a. Quoted these vv. to her & asked if ever grumbled/complained. **Guess have sinned.**
 - b. This got her. See what saying. When are this way it will destroy our light.
 - c. It will make us so much like the world, the world see nothing in us worth having.
 - d. When in Bible school had classmates w/this attitude. Love Lord & wanted serve.
 - e. But they were raised w/very narrow mind. Any deviation was compromise to them.
 - f. Hair length, versions of Bible, different music, even jogging shorts. That's right.
 - g. Said fellow student fortunate not struck dead on the spot for jogging shorts.
 - h. Wow! Look what leads too. Students that spiritual. Truth = horse snorting.

B. **Advice When Criticized**

1. **When criticized & wrong, profit from it. Criticized & right, don't stoop bothered by it.**¹²

⁹ <http://www.ourlivinghopechurch.net/wp-content/uploads/gallery/bible-verses-and-more/If-Jesus-Christ-be-God-and-died-for-me-CT-STUDD.jpg>. Accessed 10/20/17.

¹⁰ Liddell, Scott, Jones, & McKenzie (1996). *A Greek-English lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, p. 540.

¹¹ http://www.thefellowshippsite.org/uploads/7/4/1/7/7417809/684144_orig.jpg. Accessed 10/21/17.

¹² Prof. Howard Hendricks said in chapel or class at Dallas Theological Seminary.

2. **No matter what others may say about our worship and service, the most important thing is that we please the Lord. The fact that others misunderstand and criticize us should not keep us from showing our love to Christ. Our concern should be His approval alone.¹³**

III. Loving Jesus Is Worthy, vv. 6-9.

A. Jesus Scolded Them

1. Now Jesus was upset & scolded the disciples. We should be very careful here.
2. When we unfairly criticize others, heaven frowns at us, not those we criticize.

B. Why Did Jesus Defend Mary?

1. She did it for Jesus.
 - a. Jesus was not putting down serving the poor. Bible calls us to serve the poor.
 - b. Jesus was drawing attention to very important burial custom among Jews, v. 8.
 - c. Customary to bathe dead body, anoint body w/perfume, place fragments in tomb.
 - d. Jesus never got that, did He. He was hastily buried w/o proper honor. Think right?
 - e. Most important death ever occurred; accomplished our salvation. Improper burial.
 - f. Jesus was pleased because act was done in love to show His worth.
2. She did it for us.
 - a. Memorial = remembrance; sign that calls attention to a great action.
 - b. Mary's act to this day points us to Jesus & says *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.*
 - c. Why should He get \$30-35,000.00 of perfume? *Worthy is the Lamb.*

C. Lesson (Show)

1. **Whenever we show worth of Jesus to others, by sacrifice He approves, that act of love pleases Him.**
2. Do you know these 5 men. (Show)¹⁴ 1st missions team sent out by New Tribes Mission.
 - a. 2nd man in was Cecil Dye, successful church in Saginaw, MI. 4th man = brother.
 - b. When went into jungle of Bolivia were warned, **You won't come back alive.**
 - c. **Why go out there and risk your lives? Cecil Dye explained, It is because the glorious name of Jesus is not known here, and must be made known at any cost,...that we are going. I don't believe we care so much whether this expedition is a failure so far as our lives are concerned, but we want God to get the most possible glory from everything that happens.**
 - d. All 5 were murdered and never seen again. Became founding fathers of NTM.
 - e. 3 widows continued working to reach tribe murdered them, finally planted church.
 - f. Relatives of the murderers became believers in Jesus Christ & asked forgiveness.
 - g. **It was worth my husband's death to see u come to know Jesus Christ, said Audrey.**
3. **Whenever we show worth of Jesus to others, by sacrifice He approves, that act of love pleases Him.**

¹³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 159). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹⁴ <https://ethnos360.org/magazine/stories/you-wont-come-back-alive-1>. Accessed 10/21/17.