

The Gospel of John

Shadows of the Cross

John 11:45-12:11

The end is drawing near for Christ's earthly ministry. The Jewish rulers have decided against their Messiah and preparations are being made to destroy Him. Amid these dark shadows, we also have one of the most beautiful acts of worship recorded in Scripture.

The Setting

- The raising of Lazarus has created quite a stir.
- The Jewish leaders are planning in Jerusalem to rid themselves of Christ.
- With the Passover approaching, Christ meets with His friends at Bethany.

The Story

- At The Dark Plot
 - While some rush to believe in Christ after He raised Lazarus, others rush to inform the Pharisees about it – 11:45-46
 - The Jewish leaders must deal with Christ because: – 11:47-48
 - Too many Jews will believe on Him because of Lazarus
 - This disruption will bring Roman intervention
 - Enter Caiaphas – vs. 49
 - High priest under Pontius Pilate, from 27-36 A.D.
 - Son-in-law of Annas, the former high priest and real power at the time.
 - Caiaphas' unwitting prophesy – vs. 50-52
 - The decision was made to kill Christ – vs. 53
- Rising Anticipation
 - Christ dwelt in Ephraim, about 20 miles north of Jerusalem – vs. 54
 - People are preparing for the Passover, about a week away, but Christ is the focus of anticipation. – vs. 55-56
 - Traps are set to capture Christ – vs. 57
- Mary's Worship
 - Six days before Passover (Friday, Nisan 9), Christ arrives at Bethany – 12:1
 - A feast is made by His friends – vs. 2
 - Mary anoints Christ with spikenard – vs. 3
 - Amber-colored oil from the Himalayas, used as medicine and perfume.
 - Judas' protest – vs. 4-6
 - 300 *denarii* is \$3,300 in silver today, but since a common laborer was paid only 1 *denarius* a day it could be considered a year's wages.
 - The purpose of the anointing – preparing for His death – vs. 7-8

- The Growing Darkness
 - The curious crowd seeking Christ and Lazarus – vs. 9
 - The Jews seek to kill Lazarus too – vs. 10-11