

# Worship of Outrageous Proportions

John 12:1-11; Mark 14:1-11

Fans of sports teams go to extravagant lengths to demonstrate their devotion to their favorite teams. Wearing jerseys, hats, face paint, beards, costumes, and traveling to out-of-town games reveal our passion and worship of our teams and favorite players.

Jesus applauded two women who went “all in” in their acts of worship. He praised a widow who gave her last two cents (Mark 12:41-44) and he commended a woman who anointed him with a jar of expensive perfume (John 12:1-11). In contrast, the people who observed these acts thought the sacrifices were outrageous and foolish.

If we go all in to identify with and celebrate our favorite sports teams, how much more extravagant should we be in worshipping Jesus?

**Don't let circumstances stop you from worshipping (John 11:53, 57; Mark 14:1-2, 10-11).**

- Commitment is seldom convenient.
- There are always reasons not to worship.

**An ordinary event can become a time of worship (John 12:2-3; Mark 14:3).**

- Worship can occur in the unlikeliest of settings.
- Worship can take different forms.
  - Martha served.
  - Lazarus listened.
  - Mary anointed Jesus.
- Mary's act of worship was:
  - Extravagant.
  - Total.
  - Costly.
  - Personal.

**☐ Don't let criticism keep you from worshipping (John 12:4-6; Mark 14:4-5).**

- Heartfelt worship is not always appreciated.
- People will criticize how you worship and your level of sacrifice and commitment.
- Consider the source of the criticism before deciding whether or not to listen.

**☐ Understand that Jesus values our worship (John 12:7-8; Mark 14:6-9).**

- Mary's act of worship was:
  - Praised (Mark 14:6).
  - Prioritized (John 12:8a; Mark 14:7a).
  - Timely (John 12:8b; Mark 14:7b).
  - Complete (Mark 14:8a).
  - Insightful (Mark 14:8b).
  - Remembered (Mark 14:9).

**☐ Principles to Practice**

- Don't let circumstances keep you from worshipping.
- Don't let criticism keep you from worshipping.
- Worship God in any and every situation of life.
- Keep your focus on God.
- Pour your heart into worship.