



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Made to Count

Date: September 14, 2025

Scripture Text: John 12:1-11

Notes:

For many, their religious experience is centered around themselves. They come to church when it's convenient. When in church, they seek their interests over the interests of others. They don't make connections with others. When in the worship service they wait for songs, they like before singing and as soon as the service is over, they are out the door. For them, it's more about what they get out of their time at church instead of what they give. Jesus should be our center of focus, at church, and all week long. He died for us so we could live for Him. For the Christ-centered believer, church is a time to focus on Christ and invest in the body. In today's sermon we'll look at ways to be Christ-focused in our daily Christian walk.

I. Give Work to Jesus (John 12:2)

We find Jesus back in Bethany, at a dinner with Lazarus and others. It is six days before the Passover. Jesus' time is near. It was well known that Lazarus was the one Jesus raised from the dead. We also find Martha serving the meal. Her perspective changed quite a bit from the events of [Luke 10:38-42](#). She was distracted by all her preparations and complained to Jesus about Mary not helping. As she continued following Jesus her priorities changed. Instead on focusing on herself and what she thought was 'fair', her focus was on Jesus and how she could serve Him. It wasn't about what others did, but what she could do for Him.

- Looking back at [Luke 10:38-42](#), who do you identify with most, Martha or Mary?
- What are examples in the Bible of those who's focus was serving God?
- When was a time you got 'distracted' by your own priorities, instead of God's?
- Like Martha, how can we change our perspective so all we do is for Jesus and not ourselves ([Col. 3:17](#))?

II. Give Worship to Jesus (John 12:3-8)

Just as Martha served Jesus to express her devotion, her sister Mary anointed His feet with costly perfume. Mary was expressing worship for Jesus by showing His worth with the use of the perfume. It was worth 300 denarii, a year's wages. Jesus is worthy of our worship. It's not about the price of the perfume as much as it is about showing worship to Jesus.



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- In [2 Sam. 24:24](#), King David wished to make a sacrifice to God. A man named Araunah, who owned the threshing floor David wanted to use for the sacrifice offered to give it to him. But David replied “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing.” What are your thoughts about David’s actions?
- To show Jesus His worth (worship), requires cost. Cost is included in three areas:
 - Time: How can investing time be an expression of worth to Jesus?
 - Treasure: This can include money and possessions. How can you use your treasure to demonstrate Jesus’ worthiness?
 - Talents: All Christians are gifted by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of glorifying God and edifying the body. What is your spiritual gift(s)? How have you used it to worship Jesus?
- Our worship of Jesus is a personal matter, although, it may be done in a corporate setting, like the church. The story of the widow’s mite in [Luke 21:1-4](#) is an example. Her gift was not based on what others gave. It was based on what God had given her.
 - What are ways we may compare our worship to others?
 - How can that make worship more about us than Christ?
- How are you giving your worship to Jesus?

III. Give Witness to Jesus ([John 12:9-11](#))

Many of the Jews who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover were asking whether Jesus would appear ([John 11:55-56](#)). It did not take long for news that He was in Bethany to reach them. They also wanted to see Lazarus, the man they had heard was raised from the dead. The effect of Lazarus’ presence had a powerful impact upon the crowd, and as a result, many believed in Jesus.

- The work of Jesus was evident in Lazarus. How is the work of Jesus evident in your life?
- As impressive as the miracle Jesus had done to Lazarus by raising him from the dead, it is no less impressive than the work He does in the lives of those who believe in Him today. Describe the redemptive work of Christ.
- Who do you know who needs to hear the redemptive story of Jesus?
- How can you share the miracle Jesus did in your life to them?