

John 12:1-11, “I’m worth your very best.”

How to Honor Jesus with Your Very Best

1. Honor Jesus within your social network.

John 12:1-2, Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. ² A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him.

2. Honor Jesus with your possessions.

John 12:3, Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

3. Honor Jesus with purity of motive.

John 12:4-6, But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” ⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.

Negative example: Some dishonor Jesus with corrupted motives.

4. Honor Jesus with priority obligations.

John 12:7-8, Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

5. Honor Jesus with without jealousy.

John 12:9-11, When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, ¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.

Negative example: Some dishonor Jesus with jealousy.

MAIN POINT: Life is complex. We have competing interests and obligations. Where does Jesus fit in?

- Jesus is the commander, giving order to the chaos.
- Jesus is the maestro, making the orchestra sound beautiful.
- Jesus is the umbrella, sheltering us from the storms of life.
- Jesus is the anti-virus, scanning our background noise for trouble.
- Jesus is the standard, by which everything else is measured.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we are determined to honor You in our daily relationships and activities. Please make sense of our competing interests and obligations, giving each its proper place under Your leadership. In Jesus' name, amen."