

Light & Life - The Book Of John
“Embracing Your New Identity” John 12:1-11
Cornerstone Church Of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 10, 2023

Three Steps To Embrace Your New Identity:

1. Choose Whom Or What You Will Worship

Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they **still would not believe in him. John 12:37 (NIV)**

Yet at the same time **many even among the leaders believed in him.** But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

John 12:42-43 (NIV)

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at **Bethany**, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had **raised from the dead.** ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an **expensive perfume**; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:1-3 (NIV)

⁴ But one of his disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "[It was intended] that she should save this perfume for the **day of my burial.**" ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

John 12:4-8 (NIV)

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to **kill Lazarus** as well, ¹¹ for on account of him **many of the Jews were going over to Jesus** and putting their faith in him. **John 12:9-11 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

2. Worship In Response To God's Grace & Mercy

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT2)

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what **kind of woman** she is--that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. ⁴¹ "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he **canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"** ⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her **many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much.** But he who has been forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "**Your sins are forgiven.**"

Luke 7:39-48 (NIV)

Notes: _____

3. Receive Your Identity In Jesus

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! **2 Corinthians 5:15-17 (NIV)**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV)

Notes: _____

- **Are You embracing your new identity in Christ?**

- **Will you invite someone to Celebrate Christmas Eve? 9:15 AM or 5:00 PM**

My next right step, I will:

- [] Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.
- [] Invite a friend to Christmas Eve 9:15 AM or 5 PM
- [] Follow Jesus in Believer's Baptism.

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Small Group Leader: Choose how many questions that will honor your time commitment. Encourage everyone to participate in either a question, reading or prayer. [If using this as a family, choose 2 -3 questions to go deeper in faith.]

Big Idea:

To know Who Jesus is and to place our confident trust in Him as our Lord & Savior.

Open in Prayer.

Icebreaker: If you had a years worth of wages to spend on friends, which would you choose: A. Big Party? B. Glorious trip for a few? C. Extravagant gift for one?

Three Steps To Embrace Your New Identity:

1. Choose Whom Or What You Will Worship

Read John 12:37

Read John 12:42-43

Why do you think that some leaders chose to follow Jesus and others did not?

Read John 12:1-11

What is the significance of where and why this party was given?

Why did Judas have a problem with Mary's gift?

What does this tell you about Judas' choice?

Given the value of the perfume, what would have been your reaction when you saw Mary?

What did Jesus say about her gift of worship?

Why did the chief priest make plans to kill Jesus?

2. Worship In Response To God's Grace & Mercy

Read Colossians 2:13-14

What has God done for you through Christ?

Read Luke 7:39-48

What do you think the purpose of Jesus telling the parable?

Why didn't he just accuse Simon of not loving enough?

How difficult is it for you to express your love in a relationship with Jesus?

If you had a year's salary or time to use for Christ, how would you use it?

If you gave a dinner in honor of Jesus, who would you invite?

3. Receive Your Identity In Jesus

Read 2 Corinthians 5:15-17

How is our new life different than our old life?

How are we a new creation?

How has God changed your life in the past?

Where is He working on change now?

What is our motive and purpose?