

John 12:7-8

But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

When you read today's verses, you may be wondering what is going on here? Well, this was after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and they are all in the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, and in verse 3 it says that.

† **John 12:3** *Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.*

And then I like how John writes his account, getting to the point of who said this and why.

† **John 12:4-6** *Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.*

Do you see it? John points out that this was no other than Judas Iscariot, and not only was it him, but the reason he said it was "***not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.***" I'm sure by the time of this writing by John, all hated Judas Iscariot because of his betrayal of Jesus, and we also hate him for the same reason as well. And if this were us writing this, we would have said the same thing that John did, pointing out Judas Iscariot's sins.

But then John also wrote Jesus' response to Judas Iscariot as well, and if you read it slowly and ponder what Jesus said, we read that Jesus' response was a lot different than what John's response was.

† **John 12:7-8** *But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."*

Notice Jesus did not say, "*Judas Iscariot, you're a scumbag. I know you could care less about the poor, in fact you are so bad that you have been stealing from the moneybag that was used to help others and supply for our needs. You are the lowest of the low, and I want nothing to do with you, so get out of here.*" I know that sounds harsh, but it could have been how we would respond. But it wasn't how Jesus responded. In fact, Jesus didn't point out Judas Iscariot's sins, but rather protected Mary and what she was doing for Him (Jesus).

But we are all more like John than Jesus, because we tend to respond more like John did, pointing out others' sins all in the name of protecting others. But Jesus shows us that we do not

need to do that. We can still defend others without pointing fingers at others or exposing the sins of others. Paul even warns us about this when he wrote:

† **Galatians 6:1** *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

We need to “*considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*” Instead of pointing out others sins.

Jesus also taught us how to handle this as well, and He not only taught us, but He shows us right here by example. So, as you read these next verses, and today’s verses, see how Jesus taught it and lived it, Then go and do likewise.

† **Matthew 5:43-48** *“You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

† **John 12:7-8** *But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."*

† **Matthew 7:1-2** *Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*