



Worship Leader  
Matthew 26:1 – 16

The story of Mary of Bethany's worship is a powerful example of the devotion that should stir in our hearts. Jesus calls those who worship him to follow the woman's lead. Mary re-enacts Solomon's Song to worship Jesus as Israel's undisputed King, as her unrivalled Lord, as Saviour, the Suffering Servant whom God had sent to die.

- The disciples wanted to sell the perfume on behalf of the poor.
- Many say this response was extravagant yet it was more than reasonable to the Lord of all → logical response to his mercy.
- Needs of world never go away but first Jesus deserves the best, our all.
- Mary accepts Jesus action of Saviour, worshipping him for what he is going to do.
- Mary recognizes him for who he is and sets an example for us to pour out our lives in service to Jesus.

**“Were the whole realm of nature mine.  
That were an offering far too small  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all”**

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Bread and Wine  
Matthew 26:17 – 30

Jesus taught his disciples to share bread and wine as a restatement of the message of his cross; making it a reminder for generations to do the same.

- This is not, in itself, enough to keep the Gospel at the center of church life.
    - ➔ We need to keep reminding ourselves of why Jesus asked us to do it.
1. *The Lord's Supper is at its heart a radical expression of **humility**.*
    - Each time we do it we confess that we can only be saved by him and works he did on the cross.
    - Jesus chose this offensive metaphor of flesh and blood to drive off those who were not truly committed to him.
      - ❖ Moment to restate faith in God's grace alone.
    - The Lord's Supper is not superstition or mere symbolism but an outward confession that we draw our life from his death alone.
  2. *The Lord's Supper is at its heart an expression of **victory**.*
    - Jesus has won the victory through his cross and we await his return in glorious triumph.
      - i. There is a danger in thinking that his body is sacrificed afresh.
        - ➔ Jesus died and rose once and that is enough.
    - Hence we must celebrate complete victory and not make it a continuation of the battle.

- ii. There is a danger to make it somber.  
→ Have a celebration = glad and sincere heart, Acts 2 vs. 46
- iii. *The Lord's Supper is at its heart an expression of **family**.*
  - Meal shared with brothers-and-sisters-in-Christ from all around the world.
  - Corporate bond with wider body of Christ.

This feasting reminds us that:-

- a. We are graciously saved through Christ's work alone
- b. We are completely victorious through Christ's work alone
- c. We are united as brothers and sisters through Christ's work alone.

**For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
1 Corinthians 11:26**

The Only Way  
Matthew 26:36 – 54

Many people struggle that the Christian Gospel is the only way that people can be saved. They consent that Jesus is a way to God, but not the only way to God → sounds arrogant in multi-faith society.

- Jesus also grappled with this question three times in the Garden of Gethsemane, and he got up from his knees with the answer.
- We shy away from exclusive claims of the Gospel, keeping an open view, including all religions = trap.

*'Four blind men stumbled across an elephant; feeling different parts. Every religion claims to be right, but they are all blind men touching an elephant. All religions hold part of truth; they just approach God in a different way.'*

→ Something not right with this logic: it assumes that the narrator can see! → Sophisticated westerners => arrogant showing that all religions lead to God and He will overlook sin and take us to heaven.

This is the rival 'gospel' which makes Christians ashamed to proclaim that Jesus alone saves.

- We can't be so arrogant → instead we turn to Jesus Christ and let him be the narrator as we admit our blindness.
- We meet him in Gethsemane and the diagnosis of the problem is right, that we have all sinned against God, and need to be forgiven and reconciled to him, and that those who die unforgiven will be punished.
- Jesus struggled because the religions of the world were right.
- Jesus pleaded for another way → if any other religion could save mankind then spare him.
- Jesus then rises after asking 3 times understanding the message of scripture that *'without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness'*.
- Jesus shows that there is only one way to God.
- To cling to the view that other religions lead to God you must argue that Christianity does not.
- There is no crucified Christ in other religions, only in the Christian gospel.

**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind  
by which we must be saved.**

**Acts 4:12**