

## **Three Types of Believer**

John 12:1-8

### 1. Three types of followers of Jesus

Here in the scripture we have three people.

The first type is Marta: preparing for the Passover celebration; trying to prepare a feast for Jesus who had resurrected her brother from the tomb; busy and honest; happy to serve; but obsessed with today (ritual, etiquette, tradition, etc., as well as saving face).

The second type is Mary: pouring out the perfumed ointment on Jesus feet with tears; not being helpful in the preparation of the Passover ceremony, but focusing on the future; not listening to the pros and cons of today's argument; not interested in saving face; concerned with the central figure (Jesus) and ready to be led by him; and sharing the inner heart with Jesus who would not stay on the earth very long.

The third type is Judas: trying to glorify Jesus and to make better use of the perfumed ointment; logical, analytical, and accurate in everything; obsessed with today but in a different sense from Martha; and concerned with the visible aspects of Jesus rather than with His heartistic situation. Jesus did not say that Judas' words were inaccurate but scolded him for his thinking.

The first and third types were living in accordance with custom, tradition, ritual, and so on, and were conscious of popular response rather than of the real truth; the second type depended heartistically on truthfulness itself.

### 2. Three types today

There are also the same three types of people in contemporary society. These three types appear alternately even in one individual's everyday life. For example, a man may work for God but may be obsessed with the work itself and not be able to relate the work to the ultimate goal of the providence.

What to do is important, but the motivation is more important: Is it related with the ultimate goal of the providence? If not, we make mistakes unwittingly. Even brilliant people can be obsessed with the work mixed with ritual and tradition, and may hurt others psychologically, or become concerned with reward and personal honor.

The third type always puts emphasis on objective assessment and reasonableness, often centers upon the external aspects, and becomes contaminated with materialistic pursuit. Reasonableness, though necessary, is not enough for believers.

Knowledge that is not rooted in the heart lacks richness, tends to be combined with ritualism, and very often loses its life. Combined with the heartistic element, our will can result in real goodness and can accord with God's ultimate goal and His direction. The heart is the source of life. Therefore our lives can be positive and hopeful when they become heartistic. We should be like Mary, directed by the heart and the original mind.

### 3. Original humanity

The ultimate source of contemporary world problems lies in the fact that mankind lost God. There could not be man without God, but man had tried to be satisfied with himself, and has come to lose his own real self.

We should rediscover our original human-ness through heart. God is our Father. If you come to have any clue to God's heart, please stick to it and keep pursuing it further. We should go beyond Judas who thought only in terms of reasonableness, and we should go beyond Martha who was obsessed with the work. We should allow our original mind to grow in order to be related with the hearts of God and Jesus.