

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, March 18, 2018**  
**Easter Trilogy 2018**  
**1: Week of Preparation**

**TEXT:** John 12:1-8

The historical, liturgical Church is currently involved in Lenten celebrations in preparation for Easter. Being aware of some of the themes of the season might not be a bad idea, especially in light of what God told us to do this year. Purity – Maturity – Power.

We usually observe Palm Sunday and Easter as special days, recounting the historical record and rehashing the significance of the last Passover weekend. He knew what was about to happen, and He was getting ready. The week before we see Him headed for Jerusalem. He passes through Jericho and stops in Bethany with old friends.

- 1) The final surge
  - a) When He turned toward Jerusalem He knew it was time.
    - i) **He set His face.** Luke 9: 51
      - (1) GNB...he made up his mind and set out on his way to Jerusalem. See Is 50:7.
      - (2) Note Paul's statement Acts 20:24
    - ii) The great things in life require a degree of determination and focus. **You will never wish your way to your purpose.**
  - b) Before the big day, **He prepared His heart** John 11:45-57
    - i) The Chief Priest prophesied the Passover upon the Lamb of God.
    - ii) Jesus laid low to prepare himself for the final run. **The Spirit-led life has a "draw away, sally forth" rhythm.**
- 2) He took care of business on that last walk to Bethany
  - a) He told them what was going to happen Mk 10:32-34
  - b) He told them they were not up to it and they had to get a servant's attitude Mark 10:35-45
  - c) He healed a blind man. Mark 10 46-52
  - d) He passed through Jericho, Visited Zacchaeus to give a purpose statement, and taught the Parable of the Minas to correct their attitude. Luke 19:1-28
  - e) Before the big entrance, He had dinner with friends, and gave a lesson on the valued of being sold out: You gotta be willing to break a vase
- 3) **Break that vase:**
  - a) The first story of people get upset by someone's being lavish in love was in Luke 7: 36-50

- i) The house of a Pharisee. You could expect trouble
  - ii) A woman of ill-repute
  - iii) He that is forgiven much loves much. How much do you love the Lord?
- b) In Bethany, at the house of a friend, the ones upset were His disciples, and the one who broke the vase was a familiar friend..
- c) Two big lessons at Bethany. John 12:1-8
  - i) **Lesson #1: The Judas factor**
    - (1) Realize that Judas went through a process of heart hardening to get to this point. Lk 6:16/ John 13:2, 27 / Matt 26:14-16; 27:3-5
    - (2) His greed gradually eased him into Hell 1 Tim 6:10 / Col 3:5
    - (3) Life is composed of two kinds of folks: Givers and takers.
      - (a) Takers What's in it for me? Philippians 2:3
      - (b) Givers: What can I do to help? 2 Corinthians 5:13-15
    - (4) Which side of that equation do you want to be on?
  - ii) **Lesson #2: The Mary -Martha tension**
    - (1) Remember Luke 10:41 Martha, Martha. Mary has chosen the good part
    - (2) In this story. Martha is serving, Mary is adoring.
    - (3) The other disciple got upset with Mary: Matt. 26:6-13
      - (a) distressed at too much being spent in "non-productive" ways.
      - (b) Jesus responds with a motive check, a priority check, and a posterity check. : Matthew 26:10-13
    - (4) The disciples were not greedy, but they missed the point: intimacy and lavish love for Jesus are always priority 1.
    - (5) Mary is rebuked by her sister in Luke 10 and the disciples here. In both cases, Jesus commends her!!!!
    - (6) Until you put time with Him before time serving anyone or anybody, you will be stuck in your own strength,, judgmental, mad at the other brethren, and missing out on the things that endure for eternity.

The will to succeed is important,  
but what's more important is the will to prepare.

Bobbly Knight