

John 12:1-8

Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany

Every Christian has to stand up in the lion's den, but we meet someone there who has gone before us, and what we find with him is worth it all.

"She has done a beautiful thing to me . . . And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her," Mark 14.

I. John 12:1-8

**It's the fragrance of gratitude. Of eternal hope. Of love.**

Deuteronomy 15:11 "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

II. What comes for Jesus after this:

His soul is **troubled**

He faces **unbelief**

He **washes** all his disciples' feet

**Betrayed**

**Denied**

**Hated**

**Struck**

**Mocked**

**Flogged**

And

**Crucified**

III. Others who chose to be disgraced with Jesus

- Moses

"He chose to be mistreated with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt." Hebrews 11:25-6

- David

"But as the Ark entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she was filled with contempt for him. . . When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today,

going around half-naked.” “I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes,” 2 Sam 6

- Peter

“If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed. . . If anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, ,” 1 Peter 4.

- Jesus

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad!” Matthew 5

- The writer of Hebrews.

“For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured,” Hebrews 13.

So Mary is doing what God’s people have always had to do—stand up in a Lion’s den for love of God.

#### IV. But Jesus

Mary has no idea, but she is taking steps in a dance with Jesus that he will match and outdo.

#### V. Application

When we face contempt or disapproval for being a Christian, we can respond

- 1) By shrinking away—hiding
- 2) By getting angry—arguing
- 3) By choosing the way of Mary

“He uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume,” 2 Corinthians 2.

#### Small Group Questions:

1. Questions 10 and 11 in Lesson
2. How are we being invited to display our love for Jesus? What lion’s den of disapproval or risk is facing you?
3. Are you more tempted to shrink away or to roar back at the lions? May your small group pray for you, whatever you are facing?



Image credits: [ucentralarkansas](#)

The story quickly went viral, amassing almost half a million notes on Tumblr. "This is so cute, imagine having friends like this," someone commented. "Thank you for the great story and golden lessons," someone added. Scroll down below and read the story for yourself to have your heart melted.



**justaheartbrokenfangirl**

I had this girl in my class and she was considered to be like really dumb. She'd ask a ton of doubts and questions in class, which everybody would consider to be "stupid" and "silly" and even the teachers would often taunt her but she'd never stop asking. But the thing was that she'd almost always top the class

examinations and everyone was like???? They all thought she was cheating and stuff and obviously even the teachers were very biased because she wasn't so 'smart' in class, and she was regularly accused of cheating. But nobody could prove that she was actually cheating but the whole class and teachers totally believed that she did. I'm pretty socially awkward so I never really talked to her, but she was leaving school this year and I was genuinely curious about how she was so good everyone's remarks affect her. She always used to sit and hang out with only one girl, and she told me that that friend of hers was severely socially anxious and she'd lag in studies because she couldn't bring herself to ask doubts in class or ask for help from others. So they had this system where during lectures her friend would write down any question she had, and she would ask them for her. And I was just so touched??? Idk but it really changed the way I looked at people?? This girl endured taunts and jeers and borderline

bullying for being “stupid” when she was actually really smart and could easily have refused to ask such doubts for her friend but she did?? And brushed off everything others would throw at her for her friend?? I was just, idk it just really changed me in some way.

The story has spread to Twitter and here’s how people reacted



karina ♡  
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Replying to @baileyastast

This is beautiful 😞 I had extremely bad social anxiety my senior yr and I would hardly go to class. So my best friend at the time would pick me up after school and bring me back to after school tutorials and sit the entire time I had tutoring even if I was there for hours

♡ 211 4:47 AM - Oct 27, 2019

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