

**Problem:**

Isaiah 64:6 -lit. a garment of menstruation

- our righteous deeds are polluted by our false aim - ourself - Rom 3:10-11

no one pictures this better than Judas - none of you name your baby-  
but Mary is still a good name

**Text:****Worship Displayed**

John 12:1 ¶ Six days before the **Passover**, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where **Lazarus** was, whom Jesus had **raised from the dead**.

John 12:2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and **Lazarus** was one of those reclining with him at table.

John 12:3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment (myrrh) made from **pure nard**, and **anointed** the feet of **Jesus** and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (**would smell at the cross- encouragement**)

*why is mary mentioned? - Mark 14:3-9 -to memorialize her worship /extravagance in view*

*she chose the good portion - Lk 10:38-42- focused totally on Christ*

*why does John say she anointed His feet? - John 13:1-5*

*-we cannot wash His feet but we can worship the one who washed ours*

*what is so significant of smell? Exodus 30:1-8, 22-26 —> John 4:21-24*

**Worship Despised**

John 12:4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said,

John 12:5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

John 12:6 He said this, **not because he cared about the poor**, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

*2 Sam 6:12-23 - hated the display of extravagance - unholy pragmatism*

*why? - Luke 16:10-15 (two masters)*

**Worship Defended**

John 12:7 Jesus said, “**Leave her alone**, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.

John 12:8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

*((keep it for burial does not mean there was some left - Mk 14:3, 8*

*the smell would last through the crucifixion - from here on out He would smell like a man prepared for burial - smelling like a body prepared for burial He rides into jerusalem*

*Jn 12:12-13)))*

*Implication: we do not help the poor to stop poverty but to worship God*

*Worship defined - love with all heart, soul, mind, strength (opposite of altars)- Mark 12:28-33*

*Worship is the aim of..*

*Rom 12:1-6a (obedience)*

*Gal 5:13-14 (loving your neighbor)*

*Col 3:17-24 (its the aim for every part of life)*

**Worship Denied**

John 12:9 ¶ When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see **Lazarus**, whom he had **raised from the dead**.

John 12:10 So the chief priests made **plans to put Lazarus to death as well**,

John 12:11 **because** on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

*(John 11:48; 12:42-43 -glory from man) —> matt 6:1-6, 16-21 -the wrong aim*

**Main Idea:**

the aim of welfare must be worship, not welfare

**Implication:** col 1:15-16 - everything created fro Him...

When Harvard University was founded in 1636, its mission was that its students "be plainly instructed and consider well that the main end of your life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ."

in fact almost every Ivy league university was founded by Christians for Christians

Yale was started because folks thought Harvard was losing its Christian roots

Princeton started in large part as a result of the Great Awakening - and kept its evangelical vigor longest

Dartmouth was started to educate and christianize the english youth

Columbia's first president was a missionary focused on the propagation of the gospel

William and Mary was started by the church of England

Rutgers was started by the Dutch Reformed revivalists

Brown began by baptist churches scattered across the Atlantic

The first building that became UPenn was built to accommodate the great crowds gathered to hear evangelist George Whitfield and his statue stands prominently on their campus today

yet none of these schools are today Christian nor do they worship God

The YMCA began as "a refuge of Bible study and prayer for young men seeking escape from the hazards of life on the streets." -now its called there Y and it has nothing whatsoever to do with the gospel

Salvation Army - began as a Christian organization bent on evangelizing the downtrodden but go to any salvation army today and you will find nothing of the sort

The phrase "social gospel" is usually used to describe a Protestant Christian intellectual movement that came to prominence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Those who adhered to a social gospel sought to apply Christian ethics to social problems such as poverty, slums, poor nutrition and education, alcoholism, crime, and war. These things were emphasized while the doctrines of sin, salvation, heaven and hell, and the future kingdom of God were downplayed.

Today these churches deny the deity and exclusivity of Christ and and preach nothing more than the policies of the political left

**the problem was not their good deeds it was their aim**

At some point they stopped aiming at the right thing and they lost their way.

You cannot accidentally worship God. It must be your aim at all times. It must be the point of your works always.

**The aim of \_\_\_\_\_ must be worship not \_\_\_\_\_**

**Application:**

So.....this Christmas

Our ultimate aim must be worship not gifts, not christmas spirit, not anything else- these things ought to be present but they cannot be the aim

**here are some articles for further study:**

<http://illinoistimes.com/article-7621-taking-the-christian-out-of-the-ymca.html>

[http://www.forerunner.com/forerunner/X0101\\_Christians\\_Started\\_I.html](http://www.forerunner.com/forerunner/X0101_Christians_Started_I.html)

<http://www.gotquestions.org/true-worship.html>

<http://9marks.org/article/evangelism-and-social-action-tale-two-trajectories/>