

12:1-2. The time schedule now was more definite and critical: It was **six days before the Passover.** Jesus went back from Ephraim (11:54) to **Bethany, where Lazarus lived,** and attended a **dinner** in His **honor. Hosted by Simeon the Leper.** Mark wrote that the place was Simon the Leper's home (Mark 14:1-11). The dinner must have been a joyous occasion with Mary, **Martha,** and **Lazarus** there. The relationship of this family to Simon is not known, but it must have been close since Martha **served....close relationship.**

Imagine the thankfulness of those sitting at the celebration table. It's A slice of what heaven will be like. All of them having been touched by JESUS in a special way:

- Ø **Laz. Dead wrapped in grave clothes ...layed in a tomb with a rock in front of it...and Jesus brought him back to life....**
- Ø **SIMEON was a leper...an outcast in society... living alone because he would have been declared "UNCLEAN" whenever he walked the streets he had to announce his coming...."UNCLEAN" now he was his own home; whole again; ...hosting the Messiah at his dinner table...IMAGINE what that must have been like!!!....**
- Ø **Martha who was serving...one other time Jesus encouraged her to slow down and sit at his feet...but he .didn't stop her from using her gift....he simply encouraged her to remember the motive behind her gift of service....It was a gift god had given her and all gifts are given as gifts of grace...to serve with love and care.....**
- Ø **and then there was MARY.... Love oozed out of her....she must have summed up the whole picture and decided to respond extravagantly by pouring our expensive oil on Jesus. Oil that cost one years wages... WHAT a GIFT...what an extravagant response to a room filled with GRACE/healing/ and the presence of God.**

The disciples though it was waste and complained; and Judas wanted it sold for money so he could pocket some of it for himself..... Either way they missed what was happening... Blind to what God was doing in the hearts of these people.

JESUS said, that when ever the gospel was preaced...this testimony of what she did would be told....TRUTH is you cant separate the PREACHING of the GOSPEL from passionate care and love for JESUS and those he desires to touch.

THINK about it...the disciples though it was waste....judas wanted to pocket the money...

....I wonder why LAz/Simeon/ Martha/ mary didn't respond that way? What was going on in their lives that made it different for them? They seemed to have something RIGHT and the disciples seemed to miss what was going on....WHY? Maybe it was the times and seacon that they were in. They knew something big was about to happen....They were in Bethany...just outside of Jer....feel the tension of the

city...and that 's where they were headed...into Jersulem...Im sure they knew that Jesus was in danger ...but I don't think they could fathom the full scope of what was about to happen.

Fact is they were Walking into a trap.....set-up the religious leaders who wanted Jesus dead and Laz. As well. Judas was part of that trap.....he was looking for a time to turn jesus over to them and betray Jesus...

FOR the disciples I think they were feeling tremendous pressure...all powers of darkness were focused on them and on Jesus and on Jersulem. The armies of hell had gathered , their guns were loaded, the plan was to destroy Jesus before he destroyed them. The greatest battle world has ever know was about to be fought....and jesus would DIE on a cross.... He would be drug through the streets of Jer. beaten and humiliated.... Totally defeated he would die a death next to two theifs. By all Appeances he lost.... And the disciples would be right in the middle of it...and they weren't prepared...they weren't ready....they didn't heed jesus warnings. .

...so Most of them would desert him.... run in fear...hide.... and deny they even knew him. Some would leave the city say to each other...."we really though he was the one...he had such power he raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, fed multitudes with bread and fish, walked on water, and promised his kingdom would come and his will would be done, and now he's dead...."

their world was about to be turned upside down.....everything they said they believed would be tested tried in the fire of extreme opposition.... Their minds would reel with confusion and unbelief.....they we'ern't prepared....

I believe it's the Same for us today..... this is a season of great pressure.....It's like we're in Bethany with a table load of GRACE sitting there with us. We know the stories , we read all of the promises of God in his word...we sit today with many who have been touched by his GRACE...delivered from sickness, the disease of sin, we've seen the hand of God do amazing things....but there's a pressure like we've never felt. SOMETHING BIG is going on in our world.....a battle is about to be launched....one like this world we live in has never seen before....and we sense it's coming.

Be honest everyone feels it....and yet Everyone hopes things will go back to 'normal' because we don't like to have our world turned up sided down. ...we don't like to think about difficult, painful times where there will be great suffering..... The thought of it causes us to want to RUN / HIDE..... find a safe place and hunker down until it passes... .. ignore the warnings.

- Ø Problem is if you do that you won't be PREPARED.....READY... and you'll be confused and filled with anxiety when it all comes about as he said it would.

Jesus told his disciples what was coming...and he's told us as well... JESUS said this would happen....he warned his disciples of what would happen when they went to Jerusalem...he told them not to filled with anxiety and to not look at things from a worldly perspective, but to be ALERT, TO be READY, to be LOOKING FOR HIS REDEMPTION from what was about to happen. But they didn't prepared themselves and so they DESERTED HIM...DENIED HIM...and HID FROM the news of what was happening.

HE tells us the same thing.....he said you'll know when the season of my return is.... You can tell when the weather is changing by the signs you see They warn you of what's comingso be warned/ be ready/ be prepared/ be watchful/ be alert.... Here's the signs of my return.

LUKE 21:

5 signs of his return...

Respond?

3. be alert(watch) :

***1 Peter 4:**⁷ *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.* ⁸ *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.* ¹⁰ *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* ¹¹ *If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB95)¹⁸ *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,*

Ephesians 6:18 (The Message)¹⁸ *In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.*

.....bail out or crawl in a cave and wait for the wind to die down.....

PRAYER and FASTING: