

Title: Rap Sheet - John 12:1-11

Read:

¹⁻³Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house. ⁴⁻⁶Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, even then getting ready to betray him, said, "Why wasn't this oil sold and the money given to the poor? It would have easily brought three hundred silver pieces." He said this not because he cared two cents about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of their common funds, but also embezzled them. ⁷⁻⁸Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honouring the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you. You don't always have me." ⁹⁻¹¹Word got out among the Jews that he was back in town. The people came to take a look, not only at Jesus but also at Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead. So the high priests plotted to kill Lazarus because so many of the Jews were going over and believing in Jesus on account of him.

Think:

Judas gets a bad rap really doesn't he? We look at this situation and we think yep, Judas is up to no good, moaning about wasting the money. We think, all he really wants, is the money for himself. Why do we think that? Because we know what Judas ends up doing, we know that he betrays Jesus. And we are right, we can sit here, and point the finger at Judas, knowing that he ends up the bad guy. It's probably like that at school or college as well. Let's say that I told you, that someone had their wallet or purse stolen from your school or college. Who do you think did it? I bet, someone came to mind, didn't they? Yep, you thought, I bet it was so and so, they are bound to be the thief. But who put us into the judgment seat? Who said we were the ones to point the finger? Actually God is pretty straight about this, we are not to judge people, we are not to judge anyone, that's his job. We don't know what caused Judas to do what he did, and we don't know about his past. In the same way, we don't know about the guys who do things we don't like in our lives. We don't know what makes them do it, or about their past. Maybe next time something happens, our first thought shouldn't be, who's to blame, but maybe it should be, who needs our help?

Pray:

Father as we seek to look for the best in people, rather than the worst, please protect us and guide us. Amen.

Action:

You know that person you thought of, when I suggested there was a thief. How about you just spend a little time praying that they come to know Jesus as their personal saviour. How about you add them to your, list of people you are praying for? Bye for now.