

I. Introduction

- A. Few things incite the wrath of God more than hypocritical religious people.
 - 1. Jeremiah 23:1-24
 - a) Titus 1:16
 - b) 16 They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.
 - c) 1 John 2:4
 - d) 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;
 - e) Jude
- B. Again, it is crucial to understand that hypocrisy has no place in the love of God.

II. V.27 "She says to him, "Yes, Lord, I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One coming into the world."

- C. This is juxtaposed against the hypocrisy of the Jews "consoling" Mary.
- D. In light of this acceptance of Who Jesus is, the Pharisees/Jews reject Him.
- E. Therefore, Jesus loved Martha and Mary more than He loves the Jews.

III. V.28 "And this one, while saying, came and called Mary, the sister of Lazarus, saying, "The Teacher is here and calls you.""

- F. Jesus apparently, spoke to Martha, and said, "Go get Mary."
- G. While He was even saying it, she left and went directly to Mary.
 - 1. Mary was still in the house.
 - 2. Mary was still in shock.
- H. Why did Jesus call her?
 - 1. The same reason He was going to do this miracle.
 - 2. He wanted to show her the glory of the Father and the Son (vv. 4, 15).

IV. V.29 "But that one heard, likewise she raised up suddenly and went to Him."

- I. Mary's sudden raising up and leaving the house was not at all unusual.
- J. It might be the sudden emotional instability of a woman who has lost her dear brother.
- K. Her sudden burst of motion is, so the crowd thought, to be tolerated and understood for the time being.
- L. But that was not it at all
 - 1. What the burial of Lazarus could not do, the coming of Jesus did.
 - 2. It compelled Mary to get out of the house.

V. V.30"But Jesus had not yet come into the village, but he was still in the place where Martha met Him."

- M. Jesus was still possibly a mile off.
- N. This statement indicates the distance that Mary had to travel in order to meet Jesus.

VI. V.31"Therefore, the Jews, while beholding Mary that she arose suddenly, these being with her in the house and consoling her also came. They followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb in order that she might cry."

- O. These Jews now take a bit of center stage.
- P. You will find that it is the presence of these hypocrites that incites anger in Jesus.
- Q. Why?
 1. Because they are phonies:
 - a) Matthew 23:27–33
 - b) **27** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.
 - c) **28** "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.
 - d) **29** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,
 - e) **30** and say, 'If we had been *living* in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in *shedding* the blood of the prophets.'
 - f) **31** "So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.
 - g) **32** "Fill up, then, the measure of *the guilt* of your fathers.
 - h) **33** "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?
 - i) Luke 20:45–47
 - j) **45** And while all the people were listening, He said to the disciples,
 - k) **46** "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,
 - l) **47** who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."

VII. V.32 "Therefore, Mary came, likewise, where Jesus was. While seeing him, She said to Him, falling toward His feet, "Lord, if you were here, then my brother did not die."

- R. This confession of this heart-broken woman is impassioned.
- S. She could not get the words out.
- T. She fell at His feet, as usual, and blurted out that He had the power to save her beloved brother from death.
- U. Notice her brokenness.
- V. Notice her sincerity.
- W. Now, notice the next verse.

VIII. V.33 "Therefore, likewise, Jesus beheld her crying, and Jews, having come with her, crying, he was incited to anger in the spirit, and troubled himself."

- X. Here is the heart of the true shepherd-the wolves are actively preying upon the sheep...at their weakest moment.
 - 1. Jesus did not cry along with them/
 - 2. Jesus was full of anger because of them.
 - a) Matthew 9:30
 - b) Mark 1:43; 14:5
- Y. Jesus sees the way that the Jews are maintaining their hold on this woman at a time when she needed true ministry.
 - a) Jude 11–13
 - b) 11 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.
 - c) 12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;
 - d) 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.
- Z. Jesus would also be offered feigned compassion:

Matthew 27:33–34

33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull,

34 they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting *it*, He was unwilling to drink.

Psalm 69:16–22

16 Answer me, O Lord, for Your lovingkindness is good;
According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me,

17 And do not hide Your face from Your servant,
For I am in distress; answer me quickly.
18 Oh draw near to my soul *and* redeem it;
Ransom me because of my enemies!
19 You know my reproach and my shame and my dishonor;
All my adversaries are before You.
20 Reproach has broken my heart and I am so sick.
And I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
And for comforters, but I found none.
21 They also gave me gall for my food
And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.
22 May their table before them become a snare;
And when they are in peace, *may it become* a trap.

IX. Conclusion

How should you console a Christian who has lost a loved one?

Romans 12:9–13

9 *Let* love *be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.
10 *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,
13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Hebrews 10:32–35

32 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.