

John 11:53-12:11
Matt. 26:6-13 & Mark 14:3-9
Rome Georgia
August 7, 1988
January 4, 2015

2 Recent HEADLINE stories from the press this past week.

'Newsweek' publishes story on Bible's contradictions.

*By the way, how many of you here this morning **are terrified**? No? Then you must not be part of the Christian Right. According to Salon Magazine – (for those of you who have never heard of Salon Magazine, evidently Salon must be some leading scholarly journal of the Left.*

“God is on the ropes: The brilliant new science that has creationists and the Christian right terrified”

See attached for pull quotes.

Those who stand in opposition to God always save what they consider to be their best attacks for Christmas and Easter, in spite of the fact that very few of them know the difference in the two “Holy Days” – let alone which one is driving force of Christianity.

The religious/Political leaders in control of Israel at the time that Jesus walked on earth were no different. They set the standard for attacks against god over two thousand years ago. In John 11 & 12 – the setting is the most Holy Day for the – Passover. It is the perfect time to hatch another Plot against God. Ironically (but not accidentally) they seek to kill the Lord of glory in order to stop Him from growing in popularity among what they consider as “their fold”. And they are doing it during the season (Passover) set aside to keep them in perpetual remembrance of the deliverance of the Jews from the oppression of Egypt . . .

INTRODUCTORY OUTLINE:

- I. **THE REMEMBRANCE OF REDEMPTION** Exodus 12:14 & 17 'So this day shall be to you a **memorial**; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an **everlasting ordinance**. **SHADOW**

The theme of the Passover (i.e redemption from the oppressions of sin by the hand of god.) is so important that in the NT one of the two ordinances given to the church likewise highlights the same Divine Activity.

- II. **THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE REDEEMER** I Cor. 11:23 – 26 . . . For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. **SUBSTANCE**

But as much pleasure as I derive from drawing such exquisitely ironic parallels from the headlines, we have a more profitable path to tread this morning.

- III. **THE REALIZATION OF THE REDEEMER** John 12:1-8

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THOSE WHO SEEK ONLY EVIL FOR OUR LORD - WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR HIM?

Our passage this morning is sandwiched in between two insights into the wicked plans of the religious and political leaders of the nation of the Jews (John 11:55-57 Kill Jesus cf. John 12:10-11 Kill Lazarus.)

In the 3 opening verses in the account given us in John 12:1-9, we have **three of the main characters** revealed to us in addition to the Lord Himself - **Martha, Lazarus, and Mary**. (*Judas, other guests, the*

disciples, the eager on-lookers who had come to gawk at Jesus and Lazarus, as well as the Jewish Leaders are all part of the opening verses of *John 12.*)

Martha, as usual, is pictured doing what she did best - "**MARTHA SERVED**" (cf. *Lk 10:38-42*)

Lazarus is seen **reclining at the table**, concentrated on PARTAKING OF THE WORDS which Christ spoke.

Mary is seen involved in an act of **PRAISE, ADORATION and HUMILIATION.**

All three of these activities are important in the Christian life. But notice if you will that there are:

2 words used to describe **Martha's** activity.

12 words describing that of **Lazarus.**

BUT **35 WORDS** ABOUT THAT WHICH **MARY** WAS DOING!

THE MINISTRY OF ADORATION OF THE SAVIOR IS SO IMPORTANT - AND SO MISUNDERSTOOD - THAT CHRIST SAYS OF MARY'S ACT IN THE PARALLEL ACCOUNT IN **MARK**

Mark 14:9 Verily I say unto you, Where-so-ever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

I do not know of any other act, by any other individual or nation in all of scripture which receives such accolades from God Himself. Wherever the Gospel is preached - this example of adoration is to be taught!

There are a number of lessons that we need to draw from our text this morning.

CLOSENESS, INTIMACY, TO THE SAVIOR, REQUIRES SELF-SACRIFICE - IT IS ALWAYS COSTLY.

IT WILL COST US OUR PRIDE - Mary at the feet of the Savior, anointing His precious feet with oil, and then using her own hair, the glory of a woman, for a towel. Scarcely a picture of a **debutante** concerned with social climbing.

CLOSENESS TO THE SAVIOR, WILL COST US OUR PURSE

One pound of ointment of the type that Mary used (**Nard, from India**) would be worth approximately **1 years wages**. Few if any of us here today have life savings which are equal to a year's wages. (by the way, this was not a 40 hr. work week year! Much labor would be required to earn that amount of money.)

"Writing in the *St. Petersburg Times*, Terry Dunham penned these startling lines:

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my cash will keep
Whatever I do, I want to know
that it will help my profits grow."

The sacrilege is not so much in the prose - but in the Christian's life who has this as the attitude of his heart. More concerned for his savings, than his soul. **MORE CONCERNED ABOUT CASH THAN CHRIST!** *DB 7-27-71.*

Judas was one that might have prayed this prayer. **Judas** always **looked first at what he might gain!!**

HE LOOKED AND SOUNDED PIOUS - BUT HIS HEART WAS PETTY. His motive sounded good - but his motivation was all wrong!

12:6. This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

CLOSENESS TO THE SAVIOR, WILL COST US OUR POSITION - Single-minded commitment to the person of Christ **SELDOM RECEIVES THE PRAISE OF MEN - BUT ALWAYS RECEIVES THE WARM APPROVAL OF GOD.**

Our pride, our reputation, our net worth, our life savings - all must be put on the altar if we are to serve the Master with a dedication on a level with that of **Mary** in this account.

OUR ATTITUDE SHOULD BE THAT EXPRESSED BY PAUL –

I Corinthians 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

IF GOD WERE TO EVALUATE YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM IN THE PAST WEEK, HOW MANY WORDS WOULD IT TAKE? TWO? TWELVE? Or THIRTY FIVE?

IN WHAT DO YOU GLORY?

II Corinthians 10:17 But "HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD."

10:18 For not he who commends himself is approved, **but whom the Lord commends.** NKJV

WE MAY BE FORSAKEN BY MEN - BUT WE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN BY GOD!

Hebrews 6:10 **For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

On his **99th birthday**, **Carl J. Printz**, for many years the commissioner from Sweden to Canada, stepped quickly to the television stage, his keen eyes expressing the wisdom and understanding of his years.. He was asked for rules by which such a long and useful life might be achieved.

He replied:"I would suggest **one definite rule** and that is, one must **be temperate in all things.**"

then he quickly added, "Perhaps I should say in **all but one**, for in the Bible we read that we are to: . . . love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. . . and your neighbor as yourself." **Matthew 22:37 + 39** *tann #3217*

Four year old Sarah, hugging a doll in each of her pudgy little arms, looks wistfully up at her mother and said, "Mamma, I love them and love them and love them, but they never love me back." *tann #3228.*

Adolphe Monod, the famous **French evangelical preacher**, who died in 1856, said before his death. "I HAVE STRENGTH FOR NOTHING MORE THAN TO THINK ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD; HE HAS LOVED US - THAT IS THE **WHOLE OF DOGMATICS**; LET US LOVE HIM - THAT IS THE SUM TOTAL OF THE **ETHICS OF THE GOSPEL.**" *tann #3230*

MARY HAD PURCHASED THAT OINTMENT WITH A VIEW TOWARD USING IT ON THE DAY OF THE BURIAL OF JESUS. 12: 7.

If she had held back the ointment - ***it would have gone unused!*** A few days later when she went to the tomb – **JESUS WAS NOT THERE !!!!**

DO YOU HAVE PLANS TO DO SOMETHING FOR JESUS - SOMEDAY?

❖ PERHAPS YOU ARE STORING UP A LIFETIME OF LEARNING THE WORD OF GOD SO THAT SOMEDAY YOU CAN DO SOMETHING FOR CHRIST.

◆ PERHAPS YOU ARE HOLDING BACK IN AN AREA THAT THE LORD COULD BE USING YOU - **SOMEDAY**, BUT **NOT TODAY LORD**.

▪ I MUST TEND MY BUSINESS, MY TIME IS TOO SHORT EACH DAY, I AM TOO YOUNG, I AM TOO OLD. ONE DAY SOON . . .

JESUS DID NOT STAY IN THE TOMB - HE IS NOT GOING TO STAY WHERE HE IS NOW AND WAIT FOR YOU TO GET AROUND TO PRAISING HIM! HE IS COMING AGAIN!

IN A MATTER OF HOURS JESUS WOULD ENDURE:

❖ THE AGONY OF GETHSEMANE;

➤ THE BETRAYAL OF JUDAS;

▪ THE DENIAL OF PETER;

◆ THE DESERTION OF THE DISCIPLES

➤ THE SCOURGE OF THE SOLDIERS,

▪ THE PAIN OF THE CRUCIFIXION,

• GOD'S WRATH FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD!

DURING HIS ENTIRE 3 YEAR MINISTRY - NOT ONCE IS THERE RECORDED ANOTHER SPONTANEOUS SHOW OF LOVE FOR THE SAVIOR.

JESUS HAD TO HEM PETER UP AND ASK HIM REPEATEDLY BEFORE HE VERBALIZED HIS LOVE FOR JESUS.

BUT AT THAT MOMENT –WITH MARTHA, LAZARUS AND MARY (all three of whom were equally “loved by Jesus **Joh 11:5 Now **Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.**) HE RECEIVED THE ADORATION OF ONE OF HIS OWN FOR WHOM HE WOULD DIE.**

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT SOME OF US CANNOT DO. BUT WE CAN ALL DO AS MARY DID!

WHAT ONE THING DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR CHILDREN?

TO MOW THE YARD?

TO LISTEN TO YOU?

OR - TO EXPRESS THEIR LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR YOU?

'Newsweek' publishes story on Bible's contradictions

Posted: Dec 30, 2014 11:22 AM EST Updated: Dec 30, 2014 11:31 AM EST

'Newsweek's' latest story, titled '**The Bible - So Misunderstood It's a Sin,**' was published online **Christmas Eve**. Jesus, his followers and the religion they founded have been regular features in the magazine for years. (Source: Newsweek/CNN)

(CNN) - The topic of Christianity is back on the cover of *Newsweek*.

The latest story, titled *The Bible - So Misunderstood It's a Sin*, was [published online](#) Christmas Eve.

It discusses the reinterpretations and re-writings that led to the Old and New Testament, which contain multiple versions of the story of creation and others. It also reports that Christian fundamentalists ignore some of Jesus Christ's lessons.

Jesus, his followers and the religion they founded have been regular features in the magazine for years.

Three separate cover stories focused on the topic during 2012 alone.

Some critics said *Newsweek* was motivated less by news value and more by dollar value, arguing that the number of Christian-centric covers was a way to drive sales.

Others critics claimed the articles amount to an attack on Christianity. *Copyright 2014 CNN. All rights reserved.*

God is on the ropes: The brilliant new science that has creationists and the Christian right terrified

Saturday, Jan 3, 2015 09:00 AM EST, From [Salon](#) magazine

A young MIT professor is finishing Darwin's task — and threatening to undo everything the wacky right holds

The Christian right's obsessive hatred of Darwin is a wonder to behold, but it could someday be rivaled by the hatred of someone you've probably never even heard of. Darwin earned their hatred because he explained the evolution of life in a way that doesn't require the hand of God. Darwin didn't exclude God, of course, though many creationists seem incapable of grasping this point. *But he didn't require God, either, and that was enough to drive some people mad.*

Darwin also didn't have anything to say about how life got started in the first place — which still leaves a mighty big role for God to play, for those who are so inclined. But **that could be about to change**, and things could get a whole lot worse for creationists because of Jeremy England, a young [MIT professor](#) who's **proposed a theory**, based in thermodynamics, **showing that the emergence of life was not accidental, but necessary**. “[U]nder certain conditions, matter inexorably acquires the key physical attribute associated with life,” he was quoted as saying in an [article in Quanta magazine](#) early in 2014, that's since been republished by Scientific American and, more recently, by Business Insider. In essence, he's saying, life itself evolved out of simpler non-living systems.

The notion of an evolutionary process broader than life itself is not entirely new. Indeed, there's evidence, recounted by Eric Havelock in "[The Liberal Temper in Greek Politics](#)," that it was held by the pre-Socratic natural philosophers, who also first gave us the concept of the atom, among many other things. But unlike them or other earlier precursors, England has a specific, unifying, **testable evolutionary mechanism** in mind.

Quanta fleshed things out a bit more like this:

From the standpoint of physics, there is one essential difference between living things and inanimate clumps of carbon atoms: The former tend to be much better at capturing energy from their environment and dissipating that energy as heat. [Jeremy England](#), a **31-year-old assistant professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, **has derived a mathematical formula that he believes explains this capacity**. The formula, based on established physics, indicates that when a group of atoms is driven by an external source of energy (like the sun or chemical fuel) and surrounded by a heat bath (like the ocean or atmosphere), it will often gradually restructure itself in order to dissipate increasingly more energy. This could mean that under certain conditions, matter inexorably acquires the key physical attribute associated with life.