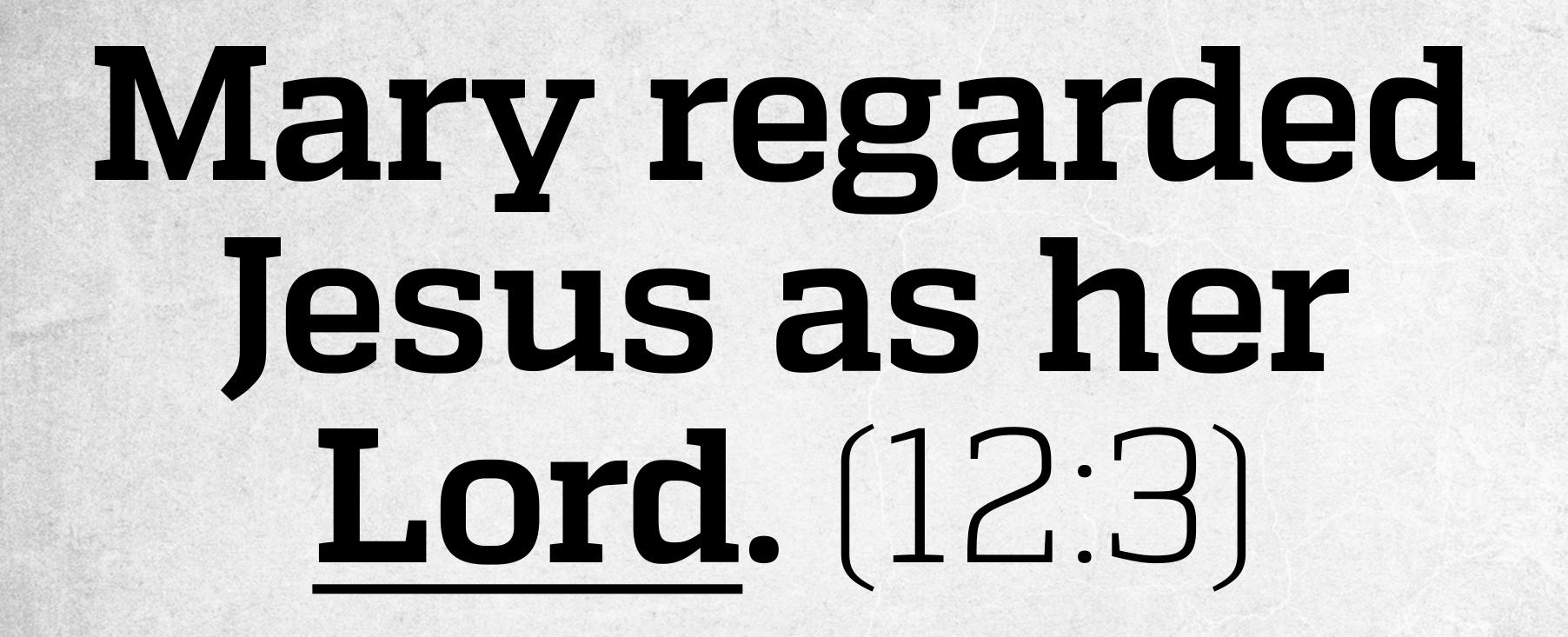


The Jesus Dilemma



"Mary did not stop to calculate public reaction. Her heart went out to her Lord and she gave expression to something of her feelings in this beautiful and touching act."

LEON MORRIS

Judas regarded Jesus as his enabler. (12:4-8)

"These words show us two things: how expensive the ointment really was and how fatal it is when our hearts don't match the worth of Jesus."

JOHN PIPER

"Jesus does not play down giving to the poor but plays up His impending death; He must be His followers' first commitment."

CRAIG KEENER

The crowd regarded Jesus as their deliverer. (12:9, 12,13, 17,18)

Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!

PSALM 118:25

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

PSALM 118:26

"A mighty leader who would overthrow Rome is precisely what the people desired of their messiah. They wanted a king to deliver them from Rome, not a Savior to redeem them from their sins...

"'Messiah' suggested to the minds of the people a kingly son of David who would be anointed by God to bring to Israel political deliverance from the yoke of the heathen, and to establish the earthly kingdom."

GEORGE ELDEN LADD

"He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to symbolize a conception of messiahship very different from that of the crowds. They hailed Him as the messianic King. He came as the Prince of Peace."

LEON MORRIS

The religious leaders regarded Jesus as their rival. (12:10,11, 19)

"The chief priests betrayed an astounding refusal to allow their beliefs to be changed by undeniable facts. They would rather destroy the evidence than change their minds...

"This is not rational behavior, but sin produces irrational action."

ESV STUDY BIBLE

The disciples regarded Jesus as a conundrum.

(12:14-16)

"Jesus would have whipped the political aspirations of the vast crowds into insurrectionist frenzy had He entered Jerusalem on a war horse...

"but He dampens nationalistic expectations by coming 'lowly and riding on a donkey."

D.A. CARSON

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

ZECHARIAH 9:9



"The coming of the gentle King is associated with the proclamation of peace to the nations...

"The coming of the gentle King is associated with the blood of God's covenant that spells release for prisoners."

D.A. CARSON

"This is the mystery of the Kingdom: the divine secret that in the ministry of Jesus has for the first time been disclosed to men...

"The future, apocalyptic, glorious Kingdom has come secretly to work among men in advance of its open manifestation."

GEORGE ELDEN LADD

"It is a repeated theme in Scripture that there can be no glory unless first there is suffering. Jesus knew that He must die on the cross before He could enter into His glory."

WARREN WIERSBE

Jesus asks to each of us: "Who do you say that I am?"