Two Contrasts Which Set the Stage for the Beginning of Christ’s Passion Week (John 12:1-11)

1. The Contrast Between Affectionate Devotion & Covetous Contempt (vv.1-8)
   1. True disciples respond to the person and work of Christ with lavish love (vv.1-3)
      1. Jesus returns to Bethany with a purposeful mission (vv.1-2)
         1. He returns to danger
         2. He returns to disciples
      2. Mary responds to the glory and grace of Christ with affectionate devotion (v.3)
         1. The lavishness of her act
         2. The humility of her act

“*To use her prized feminine hair…to wipe Jesus’ feet, when normally only servants even touched the master’s feet…indicates the depth of her humble submission to and affection for Jesus*.” (Keener)

* 1. False disciples respond to Christ and His disciples with envy and contempt (vv.4-8)
     1. Judas reveals his supreme love for money and low esteem for Christ (vv.4-6)
     2. Jesus reveals the purpose of Mary’s anointing and foretells his death (vv.7-8)

*“Were a mere mortal to claim such priority, he would be very ill or unspeakably arrogant. Jesus speaks this way as a matter of course, not only because he sees his cross and burial on the near horizon, but also because he knows he is to receive the same honour that is due the Father (5:23).” (Carson)*

1. The Contrast Between Eager Faith & Calloused Rejection (vv.9-11)
   1. The new life of a disciple serves as a witness to bring people to faith (v.9)
   2. The hard hearts of the leadership threaten the life of Jesus and His disciples (vv.10-11)

“*The narrative (12:10-11) rings with irony: Jesus went to Judea, risking his life to give life to Lazarus; now Lazarus’s new life may cost him his life. The paradigm for disciples could not be clearer: those who would follow Jesus must be prepared to die (12:25, 27), for the world will hate them and wish to kill them (15:18; 16:2). But faith would not be decreased by such martyrdom-producing new life; the sign of Lazarus’s new life brought others to faith (12:11; cf. 11:45, 48).” (Keener)*