

John 12:42-43

- (42) Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;
- (43) for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Curious choice, don't you think?

And a bad one!

People Jesus Praised (Complimented)

- ▶ A centurion (Luke 7:1-10).
- ▶ Nathanael (John 1:43-51).
- ▶ A poor widow (Mark 12:41-44).
- ▶ Mary, Martha's sister (Luke 10:38-42).
- ▶ Mary, again (Mark 14:3-9).
- ▶ A sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50).



People Jesus Praised (Complimented)

- ▶ A centurion (Luke 7:1-10).
 - ▶ Concern for his servant.
 - ▶ Humility.
 - ▶ But what Jesus calls attention to is his GREAT FAITH.
 - ▶ What would Jesus say about us? “O you of great faith,” or, “O you of little faith”?



People Jesus Praised (Complimented)

- ▶ Nathanael (John 1:43-51).
 - ▶ Note how his initial skepticism quickly changed to faith.
 - ▶ “An Israelite indeed.” See Romans 2:28-29.
 - ▶ “In whom is no guile” (deceit). See Psa. 32:1-2; Luke 18:9-14.
 - ▶ Could Jesus look at me and say, “Behold, a Christian indeed, in whom is no guile”?



People Jesus Praised (Complimented)

- ▶ A poor widow (Mark 12:41-44).
 - ▶ What she gave amounted to about 1/64 of day's wage for a common laborer.
 - ▶ And yet she gave more than the others.
 - ▶ The Lord looks beyond the amount to the spirit, or the attitude behind the giving, whether any real sacrifice is involved.
 - ▶ 2 Cor. 8:1-5.



People Jesus Praised (Complimented)

- ▶ Mary, Martha's sister (Luke 10:38-42).
 - ▶ Nothing wrong with what Martha was doing, but what she was serving wouldn't last; what Jesus was teaching would.
 - ▶ Must learn to discern between lesser and more important things.
 - ▶ Many responsibilities, but the "good things" must be made a priority.
 - ▶ Appeal to young people.
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People Jesus Praised (Complimented)

- ▶ Mary, again (Mark 14:3-9).
 - ▶ John 12:2-8 is another account. This woman was Mary, sister of Martha. Mary poured some fragrance on His feet and wiped it with her hair. Judas was the one who led the criticism, but wasn't sincere. Looking to get his hands on the money.
 - ▶ “She has done a good work for Me” (v. 6); “she has done what she could” (v. 8). And Jesus certainly made a big deal out of it (v. 9).
 - ▶ Lots of ways to show devotion to Jesus (Matt. 25:34-40; 10:42).
 - ▶ Have I done what I could?



People Jesus Praised (Complimented)

- ▶ A sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50).
 - ▶ Focus on vv. 44-47.
 - ▶ Why so courteous to Jesus, why so much love? Because she saw herself as the 500 denarii debtor, because she knew she had nothing with which to repay, and because she was thankful that Jesus would forgive her of every sin.

