# The Lakeview Lamp

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* – **Psalm 119:105**

**July 12** **2009**

## *At the Feet of Jesus*

Troy Nicholson

We only have three instances in the life of Mary of Bethany recorded for us in the Bible, but we notice something interesting about each of these instances. Every time we find Mary mentioned, we find her at the feet of Jesus.

### Listening

We first find Mary at the feet of Jesus listening to Him. She *"was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word"* (**Luke 10:39**). While there were other things to be done, she chose *"the good part"* when she chose to sit at His feet and listen (**:40-42**).

We need to take time in our busy lives to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him. God *"has in these last days spoken to us by His Son"* (**Heb 1:2**). If we want to know what God has to say, then we need to listen to His Son. This is why Paul *"determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified"* (**1 Cor 2:1-5**). He has been proclaimed to us (**:1**), and it is up to us to be like Mary and listen.

### Weeping

Next we find Mary at Jesus' feet weeping. Jesus went to Bethany after Mary's brother Lazarus died, and *"she fell down at His feet... weeping"* (**John 11:32-33**). While surrounded by others comforting her (**:31**), she recognized Jesus as the main one to whom to turn in her time of sorrow.

To whom better can we turn and fall at their feet in times of sorrow than Jesus? Some turn *away* from Him in such times, but those who love Him will turn *to* Him.

### Worshipping

Finally we find Mary at Jesus' feet worshipping. *"Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair"* (**John 12:3**). Some have said that it may have taken her life-savings to purchase this oil, but she was willing to give all she had to show reverence to Jesus.

Are we willing to fall at Jesus' feet and worship Him? The living creatures and elders are willing to do so (**Rev 5:8-14**). May we live our lives in such a way that we demonstrate our reverence for Him.

Whether it be to hear His word, seek His comfort, or offer Him worship, what better place to be than at the feet of Jesus?

# *Honoring God's Purpose*

Troy Nicholson

In **Numbers 21** we read of an occasion when the Israelites complained against God. *"So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died"* (**:6**). When the people confessed their sin and Moses prayed for them, God instructed Moses to make a serpent for them to look upon to live (**:7-9**). In **2 Kings 18:4** we learn that the Israelites kept the serpent and that King Hezekiah *"broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it."* The people had profaned the serpent that once brought life to them and sinned by using it for a different purpose than that intended by God.

Was there anything wrong with the Israelites keeping the serpent? Not necessarily. They kept other items as a reminder of various lessons learned (**Exo 16:31-32; Num 17:10**; etc.). They could have kept it as a reminder of God's vengeance against sinners and/or of His mercy towards the penitent. Instead, their use of the serpent went beyond God's intended purpose. They failed to realize that the power was in God, not some item through which He revealed His power.

One of the greatest idols of the first century was the old law. The writers of the New Testament combated this error by trying to get the Jews to realize that with the establishment of the new law the old law had served its purpose and was no longer in effect (**Col 2:14; Heb 10:9**; etc.). Too many of them failed to realize God's purpose and continued to hold onto the old instead of fully embracing the new. Paul said that in doing so they had *"fallen from grace"* (**Gal 5:1-4**).

Religious groups today continue to make the mistake of those in the first century by holding to the old law and using it to justify various practices: burning incense in worship, having special attire for their priests (pastors, bishops, etc.), using mechanical instruments in worship, keeping the Sabbath, etc. In doing so they fail to honor God's purpose in regard to both the old law and the new.

While we are instructed to learn from the old law (**Rom 15:4**), we cannot use it for more than God purposed for it. Our commitment needs to be to Christ and His law.

May we remember the serpent and honor God's purpose.

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# News and Notes

* Flyers for the meeting are on the table in the foyer. Take all you want to give to friends and family.
* A meal list for Bob Waldron is posted in the foyer. Let's fill it up today.

Members:

* Connie Cobern is doing better with her gout.
* Melissa Moore moved with a new job last week. Her new address is
  1304 Elm Ave., #10
  Americus, GA
* Estelle Hayes' blood pressure is a little high.
* Nancy Read cut her thumb while cooking.

*Absent:* None known.

*New Reports:* None known.

## *Gospel Meeting with Bob Waldron*

July 19-24

**Sunday**

**10 am**..... Why I Don't Want to Attend Sunday Evening Worship

**2:30 pm** .... Singing

**3:30 pm** .... Temptation of Christ

**Monday - Friday at 7:30 pm**

**Monday**..... Arriving at New Testament Christianity

**Tuesday**..... Our Vital Connection with Christ

**Wednesday** ... Hebrews 1:1-3

**Thursday** ..... Re-digging the Wells of Abraham

**Friday**..... Role of the Old Testament

*"O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success."* **Psalm 118:25**