

# Sermon Outlines

## “Memories of Bethany”

“He entered into a certain village” (Luke 10:38)  
“A certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany” (John 11:1)  
“Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany” (John 12:1)  
“He led them out as far as to Bethany” (Luke 24:50)

**FOUR** visits of Christ to Bethany are recorded.  
There He revealed Himself as:

### I. The Gracious Teacher (Luke 10:38-42)

#### 1. *The Story*

Delightful picture of home life — Christ resting. Cf. Mary and Martha. Both learned from the Master (“also” v. 39), but Martha was “cumbered” as well, so Jesus told her of the “one thing” needful. Even necessity may be a distraction, robbing of spirituality. Christ as Teacher was personal, patient, practical, and powerful.

#### 2. *The Message*

Our knowledge of Him today comes from various sources: books, papers, other Christians — “secondhand” — the difference between “knowing” and knowing about.” Therefore personal contact is necessary — not only for the sake of others, nor for our own intellectual benefit, but also for our spiritual growth and as defence against error. He also showed Himself to be:

### II. The Sympathizing Friend (John 11:1-45)

#### 1. *The Story*

Delay in spite of words, “he whom Thou lovest” and “our friend Lazarus.” There was a kind of anger in Christ’s rejoinders because of implied reproach and failure in faith — even Mary (v. 32) — and Martha (v. 39) after her declaration in verse 22; and yet He sympathized (vs. 33-36).

2. All agree on Christ’s Humanity, but these disciples saw both His Humanity and His Deity in a few moments of time (vs. 33-36; 41-44). Cf. Hebrews 2:17; 4:15; 5:2 — Suffering, Temptation, Sympathy. We as Christians lose if we ignore His Humanity; although care should be taken. Cf. Fifth Commandment and Mariolatry. God dealing with our sins and man having Sympathy for us like the two trusses of a cantilever bridge.

“Thou knowest, not alone as God all-knowing,  
As Man our mortal weakness Thou hast proved;  
On earth with purest sympathies o’reflowing,  
O Saviour, Thou hast wept and Thou hast loved;  
And love and sorrow still to Thee may come  
And find a hiding place, a rest, a home”

- Cf. “Able to save” (Hebrews 7:25)  
“Able to succour” (Hebrews 2:18)  
“Able to sympathize” (Hebrews 4:15)

He was also shown to be:

### III. The Suffering Saviour (John 12:1-11)

#### 1. *The Story*

The last full week of Christ’s life on earth — His thoughts must have been full of what lay ahead — His interpretation of Mary’s anointing as they sat at farewell supper.

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#### 2. *The Message*

All through Scripture Christ is shown as “born to die” — so anointing typical of this.

In relation to God — righteousness, love, grace.

In relation to man — salvation, sanctification, satisfaction.

#### IV. *The Ascending Lord (Luke 24:50-53)*

##### 1. *The Story*

Forty days between resurrection and ascension full of blessing for disciples. Ascension was crown of Christ’s earthly experience (Heb. 1:3; Rom. 8:18). Churches which do not observe this holy day miss the culmination of His life on earth and the initiation of His life in heaven: “We do believe Thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in our heart and mind thither ascend, and with Him continually dwell” (Collect for Ascension Day).

##### 2. *The Message*

Seven benefits from the Ascension:

- a) Acceptance — unquestioned
- b) Righteousness — untarnished
- c) Life — unending
- d) Peace — undisturbed
- e) Relationship — unbroken
- f) Title — undisputed
- g) Inheritance — unfading

#### *Conclusion*

1. Christ the same now — Teacher, Friend, Saviour, Lord.
2. Is He ours? Principal Cairns called this a “personal transaction” — just as incidents in Bethany were on the more personal side of Christ’s earthly life.
3. If so, we must:
  - a) Be much with Him
  - b) Make much of Him
  - c) Do much for Him

and Christ will be “all in all” because He is “Lord of all.”

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*