

Discussion questions – April 26 - John 12:1-8 – the amazing story of the anointing of Jesus by Mary...

1. IF WE ARE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK AND IF WE ARE TRULY GROWING IN OUR DESIRE TO KNOW GOD - How has God's Word impacted your life this week?
2. How is everyone doing this week? Any new challenges? How have they seen God at work? (make this a regular feature, nothing encourages like reports of what God is doing in our lives.)
3. Any follow up or carry over from our last lesson?
4. What one point resonated with you from the lesson this morning? What stands out the most to you from this lesson?

5. What's something you've held onto that you felt was extremely valuable? It could be something special you received from a family member, maybe a rare coin, piece of jewelry, an old car that has special meaning, could be a lot of things... (Somewhere along the way I lost track of a large box of baseball cards, I'm pretty sure I had a Babe Ruth and maybe a Honus Wagner!) Can you think of a circumstance in which you would give up the item you have in mind? Under what circumstance would that be?
6. When you think of worship what comes to mind? What are some characteristics of true worship? How do Mary's actions fit in with true worship? What did David say about worship that helps us – God is always looking first and foremost at the heart attitude...
7. How does breaking the alabaster flask demonstrate Mary's whole-hearted devotion to Jesus? What do you think whole-hearted devotion to Jesus looks like today? What would fit into the "extravagant" category today?
8. How do you think you would have reacted to Mary's actions if you had been there? Why did you answer the way you did? There will always be the critic of another's sincere actions. How do we keep from becoming that critic? Have you ever done something you believed to be right, and have it interpreted as being wrong? How did you respond? (Mary said nothing, Jesus came to her defense!)
9. Mary lets down her hair in public in the presence of men, something that would have been viewed as highly inappropriate. She doesn't seem to care. Why do you think she doesn't care? How might her attitude be applied today? (do we care more about what others think or more of what the Lord thinks?) Can you think of a situation in which you're not concerned about what other people think about you as long as the Lord is pleased?
What are some things we could do in service to God that people may question or think is different?
10. Jesus indicates that Mary knew what she was doing was preparing him for burial. Talk about how she knew that when no one else did. How do we emulate Mary today? What's that look like?
11. Besides the missed opportunity to sell the oil, why do you think the disciples were angered by Mary's actions? (One consideration might be it definitely overshadowed them)
12. Mary's legacy has been ongoing for over two thousand years now, what would you want your legacy to be?
13. What we take away... Let's be extravagant in our love for Jesus. Give generously. Serve sacrificially. Love unconditionally. Forgive freely. Welcome the least and the lost. Let's be the fragrance of Christ.