

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

JOHN 12:1-11

DISCUSSION 1: GRATITUDE

1. Why did they throw a dinner for Jesus (12:2)? Why do you think Mary anoints Jesus' feet in this way (12:3)? What are ways we might respond with thankfulness and worship to God in our own life?
2. Alongside John 12, scan John 11 to see Jesus' interactions with Martha and Mary. Read Luke 10:38-42. How might the different personalities and experiences of Martha and Mary be evident in how they interact with Jesus in these passages?
3. Read John 3:30. What role does humility play when it comes to Mary's grateful worship (notice again how this contrasts to Judas' selfishness and pride)? How might more humility, and exchanging self-centeredness for Christ-centeredness, increase our gratitude and worship?

DISCUSSION 2: WORSHIP

1. Was Jesus worth pouring out a year's worth of wages, especially if that money could have been used more practically? Why or why not?
2. What might we take away from the fact that Mary offered something of such value and worth to Jesus when she anointed him with oil?
3. Why don't we treasure Jesus more like Mary did? What are ways to cultivate this kind of worship or affections for Jesus?
4. How does the heart of Mary in this passage differ from the heart of Judas? What do you think are factors behind their different responses? How does it reveal what they treasure most?

DISCUSSION 3: PURPOSE

1. What was Jesus emphasizing in 12:8, and how do we know he isn't dismissing care for the poor?
2. Read John 12:9-11. How is Christ's work in Lazarus' life a testimony? What are ways God used it in the lives of people? How can we reflect Lazarus by pointing to the life-changing power of Jesus?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Why did they throw a dinner and why did Mary use something so valuable on Jesus?
2. Why was Jesus worth more than this valuable that likely cost a year's worth of wages?
3. What are ways we can show our thankfulness, gratitude, and worship to Jesus for all he's done for us?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Read Scotty Smith's prayer, "A Prayer for a Mary Heart in a Martha World."
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/scotty-smith/a-prayer-for-a-mary-heart-in-a-martha-world-3/>
- Read "Enthralled!" by Jon Bloom <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/enthralled>
- Read "Jesus was Anointed" with kids from *The Gospel Project* <https://www.gospelproject.com/jesus-was-anointed/>