



Northland Christian Church

Group Discussion Guide For the Week of June 26, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- When has someone blessed you with an expensive gift? What was this like? When have you sacrificed by giving someone an expensive gift? What did you learn or experience?
- Who in your life is an example of a bold risk taker? Who in your life is an example of an extravagant giver? What lessons have you learned from each of these individuals?

Context

At the end of John 11, we explored the last of seven great miracles Jesus performed (resurrection of Lazarus) before his own resurrection. We now move to a new narrative that brings us toward the crucifixion and resurrection. In John chapter 12, we will read the account of Mary using expensive perfume and her hair to wipe Jesus' feet. Mary held the value of Jesus so high that she wasn't concerned about what it cost her, what it looked like to others, or what people might say about her behavior towards Jesus. Can you relate? John contrasts the actions of Mary and Judas and we will study how it applies to us today.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

JOHN 12:1-8 CSB

"Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there; Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped his feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 Then one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? " 6 He didn't say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it. 7 Jesus answered, "Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of my burial. 8 "For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Discuss

1. What details does John give us about Mary's sacrifice in John 12:3? What strikes you as most intriguing?
2. How does the value we place on Jesus determine how we interact with Him? In what ways do your interactions with Jesus reflect the value you do or not place on him? What have you "wasted" in love for Jesus lately?
3. Do some internal math and consider your yearly income. That is how much Mary poured out on Jesus' feet. What do Mary's actions communicate about Jesus and his worth? What does Jesus say the kingdom of heaven is like in [Matthew 13:44-46](#)? Do your actions communicate the same thing? Why or why not?
4. Do you relate to Mary's unabashed affection for Jesus? If so, what are some judgements or misconceptions you've suffered as a result? If not, what are some things that might be keeping you from this type of affection?
5. How can we give to Jesus and worship him with the same spirit of Mary's giving and devotion?
6. How does Mary's act of worship, service, and sacrifice contrast to the religious leaders in John 11:48, to Judas in John 12:5? What are they clinging to, and what is she willing to give up? What factors, habits, or beliefs might have led to these differences?
7. Are there areas of your life where your affection for Jesus isn't in alignment with the worth you say you place on him?

Challenge

8. Consider this week on your own or with a trusted spiritual mentor: Are you living a life that says Jesus is worthy?

End Your Group Time in Prayer