

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week Pastor Don starts a new series called *The Journey* which will highlight the events of Jesus' life as He made His final walk to Jerusalem where His eventual crucifixion, death, and resurrection would take place. Today's passage examines what happened when Jesus and his disciples were resting at a follower's house, and to get your group discussion started let everyone share about a time when they received criticism for doing something *good* - what happened, and what was their response?

BIG THOUGHT

Jesus' willingness to sacrifice Himself for us means He deserves our adoration and worship - even if others don't understand or it costs us a high price.

1. Begin by reading Mark 14:1-2. What was going on behind the scenes and who was involved? (v. 1) Why did they want to wait until after the national feast / celebration was over? (v. 2) What does this tell us about the crowds' opinion of Jesus?
2. Now read v. 3. What happened at this dinner? To help understand the background of what the woman was doing, read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Knowing what she was implying, how do you think you would have responded if you had been there - shock? Anger? Excitement? Confusion? Something else? Explain.
3. Read John's description of the event in John 12:1-3. What additional information does he give? Why do you think John wants to make sure we know who's there? What's different in John's description of the woman's actions (compared to Mark's)? Do you think both descriptions can be accurate? Why or why not?

4. Now read Mark 14:4-5. What do some of the people in the room say? And what is their attitude? (v. 5) Knowing that the woman with the perfume is Mary (the sister of Lazarus), does this seem strange to you or do you see it more as a case of squabbling among friends? Who does John 12:4 name as the ringleader of this backlash? And why does he complain? (John 12:5)
5. Read Mark 14:6-9. What is Jesus' response to His disciples? (v. 6) Does this surprise you? Why or why not? Restate Jesus' point in v. 7 - what was He NOT saying about our responsibility to the poor? What does He say the woman is doing for Him (rather than anointing Him as a king)? (v. 8) Do you think anyone in the room has any idea of what Jesus was talking about? Why or why not? And how important does Jesus say is her act of worship? (v. 9)
6. Now read Mark 14:10-11 to finish. What happens immediately after this dinner? Who is involved? What does Mark imply about Judas' motive for betraying Jesus (what did the chief priests agree to give him)? How does this entire event reveal that Jesus was completely aware of what is going to happen to Him in Jerusalem? Explain.

Take it Further

In the same way that Mary anointed Jesus out of her deep appreciation for Him, take time in prayer to let Him know how much you appreciate His sacrifice in your place.

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Romans 5:8
Day 2: Mark 10:45
Day 3: John 3:16

Day 4: Philippians 2:6-8
Day 5: 1 Peter 2:24
Day 6: 1 Timothy 2:5

Memory Verse: Mark 14:6