

Small Group Curriculum

Week of 1-20-13

1. Have a volunteer read Mark 14:1-11.
2. According to verses 1-2, how would you summarize the relationship between the recognized religious leaders and Jesus? How do these verses provide a contrast for Mary's act of worship?
3. Scholars have pointed out that Mary spent nearly a year's wages to buy the perfume she poured out on Jesus. She must have planned and saved for this moment. What might a similar act of extravagant worship look like today?
4. What was at the heart of the disciples' complaint against Mary's act of surrender? How did Jesus respond? What does this teach us about the dangers of judging the discipleship of others?
5. Where have you seen instances of Christians pitting the value of caring for the poor against the value of worship?
6. Pastor Derek suggested that Mary had to know this act would bring her reputation into question. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:4. What do you think gave her the courage to stick to her convictions about what her act of surrender should look like?
7. Some commentators believe that Mary's act of surrender was prophetic in that it was very similar to act of preparing a body for burial. How might have Jesus' felt during her act of surrender? (v.8)
8. Pastor Derek observed the breaking of the vase as word picture of the point of no return one has to cross when they surrender to God. When have you seen someone "break the vase?" What feelings did you experience witnessing that event?
9. Who in the room was most like Jesus? How does surrendering to God make us more like Christ?