

Growing Your Devotion

Discussion Questions

IN THE SCRIPTURE

1. **Read John 12:1-2.** In what town does Jesus arrive? What is the importance of it as far as the following story is concerned? What emotional dynamics do you think took place in the hearts of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary?
2. **Read John 12:3.** What details stand out to you about Mary's actions?
3. **Read John 12:4-5.** What is Judas' response and does it make sense? Give reasons why or why not? How does v. 6 help the reader better interpret Judas' statement?
4. **Read John 12:7-8.** How does Jesus contrast himself with the poor? What is Jesus alluding to?

IN THE SERMON

1. Yancey described devotion as an "earnest attachment to someone or something." Can you give some examples of devotion?
2. Yancey stated, "Our money runs downhill to our values." In other words, what we freely give to financially usually highlights our devotion. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?
3. What is the difference between seeing Jesus as an END or merely a MEANS to an end? How does Mary exhibit the former and Judas the latter?
4. How can you tell when someone sees Jesus just as a means to their ends and when someone has Jesus as an end to himself?
5. Yancey suggested a three-step pathway for growing our devotion. What was that path? What does each step represent? [HINT: 1) Remember the spiritual shape you were in before Jesus; 2) Remember the price God paid to secure your rescue; 3) Remember the victory he achieved and the spoils Jesus brings]
HOW BAD → HOW BIG → HOW BLESSED
6. How bad off really were we before Christ? [Read and discuss Eph. 2:1-3]

7. How big off a price did God pay to rescue us from the penalty of our sin? [Read and discuss Rom. 5:6-8]
8. How blessed are you in Christ? Can you list some of the blessings Jesus brings?
9. Where does the application of this text tie into the Spiritual Growth Grid (e.g., In Christ we are citizens, family, and missionaries)?