



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"JOHN 11:45-57"

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER

What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

JOHN 12:1-11: What does it mean to prepare oneself for worship, both privately and corporately? What does 'true' worship look like? How should we respond to a time of worship as we leave church? What does it mean to be 'generous'? How about 'RECKLESSLY generous? How can we be 'the aroma of Christ' in the world around us? WHAT DOES MARY HAVE TO TEACH US ABOUT ALL OF THIS IN TODAY'S PASSAGE?

MARY PREPARED TO WORSHIP JESUS: She thought about it beforehand. She intentionally planned WHEN she would do it, HOW she would do it, WHAT she would use, knowing what the RESULT of her action would be.

- What do you think would drive an act of worship such as Mary showed that day? Was it just because Jesus raised her brother to life, or was there more? What do we know about Mary's interactions with Jesus that shed light on her act of worship?
- How does this focus on Mary's act of worship challenge and encourage you to be intentional about preparing for the time(s) you have set aside to be with Jesus each day? How might your devotional time look different from what you are presently experiencing so that you learn more of Him?
- Mary's act of worship had a result that affected everyone in the house. What outcomes would you like to see from your encounters with Jesus? How can you prepare for that?
- What does 'true worship' look like for you?

MARY WAS RECKLESSLY GENEROUS; SHE POURED OUT ALL SHE HAD OF THE EXPENSIVE PERFUME: Mary could have chosen many much less expensive perfumes; or, if she really wanted to use the pure nard, she could have poured out just a little. But she didn't. She poured herself out, breaking the jar and pouring out every drop to show her extravagant love for what Jesus had done.

- In Mary's culture, what was the significance of the kind and amount of perfume she spilled out at Jesus' feet? What kind of sacrifice was that for her, that she would be criticized for its extravagance? What might that look like today in our culture?
- What does living generously look like to you? Is your natural tendency to be generous, or are you more cautious? (There are many ways of being generous!)
- Mary gave extravagantly because she loved extravagantly! How does Mary's example of generosity challenge or encourage you to be more generous? Or to love extravagantly?

MARY'S ACT OF WORSHIP RESULTED IN AN AROMA THAT FILLED THE HOUSE. Having broken the pint jar of perfume, Mary's act of worship caused everyone in the room to be saturated with the aroma of her worship. As they left the house, the aroma would be carried with them!

Consider this passage:

II Corinthians 2:14-15 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ among those



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who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

- How well are we living the Corinthians passage, BEING the 'aroma of Christ' in the world around us? To be 'men of sincerity' (or 'people of sincerity')? What exactly does that look like? How do we prepare ourselves for spreading the fragrance of the knowledge of Him EVERYWHERE?
- How do you relate to these words as we consider being the aroma of Christ? What do they have to do with anything? Response...Repentance.....Conviction.....Action....

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO THIS STUDY OF MARY'S ACT OF WORSHIP? WHY?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.