



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 26:1-16” on September 30 & October 2, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Daniel affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 26:1-16

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

Matthew’s writings in these 16 verses contrast Mary’s extravagant, worshipful anointing of Jesus for burial with Judas’ first steps to betray Him. There is much we can learn from the choices Mary and Judas made!

Mary had a reputation of being at the feet of Jesus; she wanted more than to know ABOUT Him. She wanted to really KNOW Him by sitting at His feet, listening, and learning, which led to her act of worshipping Him and preparing Him for burial. She believed what He had been saying; she desired to serve Him in an act of extravagant love!

- Jesus chose again and again to spend time alone praying with His Father. Where are the moments in your life where you go and spend time alone at Jesus’ feet, being still before Him?
- What does it mean to you to spend time at the feet of Jesus? God has given us the gifts of prayer and His Word – how do these gifts fit into the rhythms of your daily life? How do they overflow into acting and serving others?
- How well do you really KNOW the people you live with/interact with daily – not knowing ABOUT them, but KNOWING them because you have spent time listening to what’s on their hearts? How well do you think you really KNOW Jesus?
- What would extravagant love like Mary displayed look like in today’s world? In your life? Could you describe yourself as one who loves Jesus extravagantly?

The opposing perspectives: Was Mary’s act a thing of waste, or was it a beautiful thing? The disciples, particularly Judas, saw the anointing of Jesus with expensive perfume a wasteful act, but Jesus saw it differently – “She has done a beautiful thing to me.” (Vs 10b.) By this time Jesus had shared SIX times with the disciples what was about to take place and what His kingdom looked like, but they still didn’t get it! Mary did get it, and she acted on what she knew by serving Jesus in love.

- Have you ever been tempted to ‘bail’ on Jesus when things didn’t seem to be working out as you thought they would or should? Have there been times in your life where you have squeezed time for prayer and study of God’s Word out of your daily or even weekly routine? How do you look at those times in light of today’s passage?
- Jesus not only poured out His life for us, offering us salvation – He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. All the time. How well would you say you are listening to the promptings, guidance, and convicting of the Holy Spirit in your life – are you letting the opportunity to be guided by Him go to waste, or are you regarding the presence of the Holy Spirit as a beautiful thing in your life and acting on that blessing?
- Daniel mentioned that most of us can relate to every character in this story at some point in our lives – but what character do you most relate to?
- What do you learn from the characters in this passage about loving God and loving people? How could you apply that to the way you spend your time each day - time with Him and time with loving and serving others rather than time for yourself?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

- 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

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