

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 6 of Encounters

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Jesus revealed as the One who cultivates hearts of worship – drawing us out of apathy, teaching us to value His presence, and affirming surrendered devotion.

1. Apathetic vs. Attentive (*John 12:2–3*)

- While others gathered for dinner, Mary intentionally focused her attention on Jesus and responded with extravagant worship.

Discuss:

- What are some things that can cause us to become spiritually apathetic or distracted from Jesus?
- What does it look like to live attentively to the presence of God in everyday life?

2. Appraising vs. Appreciating (*John 12:3–6*)

- Mary saw worship as worth everything, while Judas evaluated the moment through criticism and personal gain.

Discuss:

- How can people sometimes place practical value over spiritual devotion?
- What helps cultivate genuine appreciation for Jesus rather than a transactional mindset?

3. Agitated vs. Affirmed (*John 12:7–8; Mark 14:4–6, 9*)

- Others were frustrated and critical of Mary's offering, but Jesus defended and honored her sacrifice as beautiful and meaningful.

Discuss:

- Why can wholehearted devotion to Jesus sometimes be misunderstood by others?
- Have you ever felt hesitant to fully express your faith because of fear of criticism or judgment?

