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## Week 3: The Fragrance Before the Earthquake Tirus Tholen

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**True worship is revealed when what is most precious to us becomes less valuable than Jesus.**

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### **The Quiet Before the Cross**

“Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

### **Mary’s act of worship ushers us into true New Testament Worship**

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#### **1. Biblical (or true or authentic) Worship is marked by Truth and Relationship.**

- True worship is worship “in spirit and in truth,” worship flowing from a real relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit, not just ritual.
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#### **2. Biblical (or true or authentic) Worship is marked by Whole-hearted surrender, not LUKEWARM devotion.**

- God is not honored by half-hearted, dishonest worship
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#### **3. Biblical (or true or authentic) Worship is marked by YOUR personal sacrifice.**

- You are the one who chooses what obedience, generosity, and surrender look like in your life in this season.
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#### **4. Biblical (or true or authentic) Worship (carries, or bears, or releases) the fragrance of the crucified and risen Christ.**

- When we offer Him true, costly worship, the fragrance doesn’t stay in the room. It follows us into our homes, our neighborhoods, our units, our workplaces.
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## Reflect and Discuss

1. When you imagined your most valuable possession or dream, what emotions surfaced at the thought of giving it to Jesus? What does that reveal about what you truly **treasure**?
  2. In your life right now, where is Jesus asking for *sacrifice* rather than just a song or a moment? How does Mary's costly act challenge your current definition of worship?
  3. Have you ever obeyed Jesus or given sacrificially and felt misunderstood or criticized, even by other believers? How does Jesus' "Leave her alone" encourage you to keep obeying Him anyway?
  4. Which of these most needs to grow in you right now: worship that remembers His cross, worship that risks being misunderstood, or worship that carries resurrection fragrance? What is one specific, costly gift you can give Jesus before Easter?
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## CELEBRATE **EASTER**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** 7 PM

WORSHIP AND COMMUNION SERVICE

**EASTER SUNDAY** 9 AM

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES 11 AM

You were made to change the world - We are here to help.  
[sanford.manna.church](http://sanford.manna.church)

## **SANFORD SERVE DAY BLOCK PARTY!**

Join us at St. James AME Church for our annual "Block Party". We'll meet with other community volunteers to spruce up portions of Washington Avenue, Boykin Avenue, Dudley Street, Crestview Street, Booker Street, Bullock Circle and Horton Circle



**SCAN AND SIGN UP**



APRIL 25TH  
ST. JAMES AME  
CHURCH  
1024 BOYKIN AVE  
8:00 - 3:00