

Leaders Guide 3

THE FEAST AT SIMON'S HOUSE

1. **Suggested Ice breaker:** What is the most memorable activity you ever did with your family as a kid?

2. **Prayer time:**

A Prelude to Prayer : Consider what it would mean to place your estate in the hands of another person: your credit cards, your home, your investment, your automobiles, your responsibilities, everything. You'd pick that person very carefully, wouldn't you? That's essentially what Jesus did when He authorized us to use His name in prayer. He gave us authority over His accounts. He asked us to exercise control over His estate-- the Kingdom of God.

3. **Sharing from the week**

4. **Read John 12: 1-11; Matthew 26: 6-13;** Also become familiar with the background to this story.

5. **Questions for Discussion**

- a. After reading John 12: 1-2 describe the sentiments of each person mentioned as they meet for this feast. _____

- b. Mary wanted to express her great devotion and thanksgiving to Jesus in a ways that conveyed her heart. The perfume cost a years salary (according to Judas' evaluation). What kind of a gift honoring Jesus today might be comparable?

- c. Judas' attitude to Mary's gift was a contrast to Mary's attitude. Explore what were the factors for Judas' attitude _____
- d. If Judas was a thief why did Jesus allow him to be treasurer of the group? _____

- e. How do you think the anointing of Jesus feet was preparing for His burial? John 12: 7,8. See also how it was to illustrate the gospel DA 563. _____

- f. In Mark 14: 4-11 it describes Jesus rebuke to the concept of selling the perfume for the poor. We know Judas led in this challenge to Mary's act of anointing. This led to Judas leaving the room and betray Jesus. Why was this conversation the "final straw" to Judas. _____
- g. In Matthew 26: 13 it says wherever the gospel is preached this story of Mary will be told as a "memorial for her." Why did Jesus make this story of such universal impact? _____
- h. How would you have reacted if you were in the room when Mary anointed Jesus feet? _____

Friday—one week before the crucifixion

On this day Jesus travels from Jericho to Bethany to be with his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. It is amazing how important friends are when we are dealing with a crisis. Luke 18 and 19 records the events in Jericho just before Jesus heads to Bethany and Jerusalem to his death: The healing of a blind man and the conversion of Zacchaeus. Even though in Luke 18: 31-33 Jesus tells his disciples explicitly what is going to happen to him in Jerusalem, the events ahead does not prevent Jesus from alleviating the pain and hopelessness of those He meets on the way. That is so like Jesus—forever mindful of each of our needs and concerns as He works sacrificially and tirelessly to redeem our planet from the devastation of sin's impact. Thank you Jesus for “ever living to make intercession for us.” Thank you for never, ever giving up on us!

Sabbath— the day before the triumphant entry into Jerusalem

It appears that Jesus spent this Sabbath in Bethany. Many believe it was this Saturday night when the supper of John 12 occurred which is highlighted in other gospels. The occasion is recorded to tell about Mary's anointing Jesus' head and feet with very expensive fragrance Why does this story have such prominence in the gospels and why does Jesus say it would be told right to our day?

Because Jesus knows that a casual approach to a relationship with Him will not be adequate to get us through the tough times. Many at the supper that night loved to be around Jesus but Mary possessed the strong connection to Him. It's just like a casual approach to Covid 19 will not be adequate to overcome the spread, it takes radical commitment.

Mary had a deep thirst for God. She had a joyful thanksgiving and a genuine repentance for her sinful ways (especially if we see her as the sinful woman of Luke 7). Jesus knew the disciples would have tough days ahead and he longed for them to possess the qualities Mary possessed. However He didn't give up on them—yes, Peter denied Him and they all ran away when Jesus was captured. Yet Jesus see us as we may become not as we are. They eventually, except for Judas who abandoned Jesus, all became powerful witnesses for Him. The kind Jesus needs for end time.

For the disciples it took ten days in the upper room to get it right. Jesus is hoping that the isolation of Covid 19 will help develop His followers into His passionate followers prepared to go through the tough days of end times. He looks forward to the joyful reunion with all of us. He is coming soon!