

Participant's Guide 3
The Feast at Simon's House

I. Celebrating Christ as The Amen

II. Revelation 3: 14: And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning (origin) of the creation of God. Jesus is the demonstration of truth to all God's word has said.

III. Read this week's story: Matthew 26: 6-13; Mark 14: 3-11; Luke 7: 36-50; Jn 11: 55-57 and 12: 1-11 and DA 62

IV. For Meditation:

- a. **Desire of Ages 568:** Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. You may say, I am sinful, very sinful. You may be; but the worse you are, the more you need Jesus. He turns no weeping, contrite one away. He does not tell to any all that He might reveal, but He bids every trembling soul take courage. Freely will He pardon all who come to Him for forgiveness and restoration.

Reflect on what this event-The feast at Simon the Leper's House, meant to each of the following:

- b. Simon the Leper _____
- c. Judas Iscariot _____
- d. Mary _____
- e. Martha _____
- f. Lazarus _____
- g. Jesus _____
- h. Peter _____
- i. What did Jesus mean in Matthew 26: 11: "For you have the poor always with you..." Was Jesus minimizing the need to minister to the poor? _____
- j. **Desire of Ages 566:** Simon the host had been influenced by the criticism of Judas upon Mary's gift, and he was surprised at the conduct of Jesus. His Pharisaic pride was offended. He knew that many of his guests were looking upon Christ with distrust and displeasure. Simon said in his heart, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth Him: for she is a sinner." See how criticism affected Simon the Leper, how careful should we be in sharing criticism in from of others? _____

IV. Prayer this week:

1. Five People who need your prayer support;
2. Your Church in its witness for Christ;
3. Your Family it will be close and united.
4. The leaders of your church, conference, city and province.
5. That you will have the courage to leave your comfort zone to fulfill a calling from God.

Background

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!