

WHY I FOLLOW JESUS



Because He Held Nothing Back

Connect

Share about a time when you “traded up” or got a really good deal on something.

Review

Take a couple of minutes to review the main ideas from the sermon:

1. **An Extravagant Gift, Humbly Offered.** Mary pours out an entire year’s wages of perfume on Jesus’ feet, giving both her wealth and her dignity to honor him. Her extravagant worship challenges us to consider whether Jesus is truly the most valuable thing in our lives and whether that reality is reflected in how we spend our time, money, and energy.
2. **A Legitimate Question, Cynically Asked.** Judas asks why the perfume wasn’t sold and given to the poor, but underneath his seemingly responsible question was greed. His example reminds us that fear, apathy, or selfishness can disguise themselves as “common sense” and keep us from wholehearted devotion to Jesus.
3. **An Infinite Sacrifice, Freely Given.** Mary’s perfume points ahead to Jesus’ burial, revealing the paradox of the King who would give himself completely for his people. Jesus willingly took the full consequences of our sin because he loved us enough to hold nothing back.

Read John 12:1-11

Make Observations: After reading John 12:1-11 out loud, give your group a few minutes to make observations on their own. Then go around the group and share what you observed and discuss them.

Discuss

1. Has there been a time when someone has done something extravagant or “over the top” for Jesus that it made you uncomfortable? If so, what was it? Why do you think it made you uncomfortable?
2. Have you ever asked God, “Is there something truly extravagant I could do to honor you?” Why do you think this question can be difficult for us to ask?
3. Judas slowly became the kind of person who eventually betrayed Jesus. What’s one thing you’ve decided that isn’t a big deal in your life, but it could lead to dangerous places if left unaddressed?
4. Jesus' words in verse 8 echo Deuteronomy 15:11, where God commands openhandedness toward the poor. Knowing that, why do you think Jesus defended Mary's gift instead of siding with Judas? What does this tell us about how worship of Jesus and care for the poor fit together?
5. Jesus linked Mary's gift to his burial rather than his coronation. What does this tell us about the kind of King Jesus is?
6. The sermon said everyone is "making a bet" on what to spend their life on. What have you been tempted to bet on (other than Jesus) that seemed to promise a big payout? What did it actually deliver?

Apply

Break up into smaller groups of three, and respond to this question:

The sermon challenged us towards a more expressive, generous, and sold-out love for Jesus. Where do you see places in your life to increase your love and devotion to Jesus, even if it's in a small or subtle way?

Pray

Have each person pray for someone (either on their right or left) and the response they shared to the previous question. Ask God for the courage and willingness to follow through.