

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 12:1-11)

1. Have you ever had something that you valued so highly that you felt you couldn't/wouldn't ever let it go?  
What was it and why did that mean so much to you? (Sentimentality, monetary value, spiritual significance, etc.)  
How about currently - what are some of the things (material or otherwise) that you value most in life?  
Would you be willing to let those possessions, relationships, etc. go if you knew the Lord was calling you to do so?  
How would you react in those situations, and how does it reveal what your priorities and value most in life?  
As you think about this - do you love the Lord at a greater level than anything else this world might have to offer?  
Do you really believe that honoring the Lord is worth whatever it may cost you in this life?  
If not, take some time to pray and confess this to the Lord - ask Him to realign your life toward Him.  
Ask Jesus to increase your love for Him and help you to maintain an eternal perspective on life.
2. Read John 12:1-11, Matthew 26:6-13, & Mark 14:3-9 - each of these passages tell the same story from different perspectives.  
What are the similarities and differences in these passages?  
How do the differences in the accounts contribute to a more complete picture of what took place here?  
Why is it valuable to spend time reading parallel passages like this when trying to understand a passage?  
In light of these three passages all read together, what do you believe are the main takeaways from this narrative?  
(i.e. what is the Lord revealing here and how does it apply to our lives?)
3. How do Mary's actions here demonstrate a deep commitment to the Lord?  
How is this an act of worship unto the Lord?  
What consideration does Mary give for herself & her own reputation in all of this?  
(i.e. using a very expensive jar of pure nard, letting down her hair to wipe His feet)  
Have you ever found yourself doing something in service to the Lord without any concern about shame/ridicule from others?  
On the other hand, have you ever sensed that God was calling you to do something, but in embarrassment you didn't?  
What do you think it takes to get to a place where you are only concerned with the glory of Jesus?  
(You can also read 2 Samuel 16 if you want to see a situation where King David did something similar to honor the Lord)
4. Judas' reaction recorded here appears on the surface to be one of care/concern for the poor, but John reveals the truth.  
(he just wanted to have additional funds available for him to use for his own purposes).  
In seeing this, it reveals that he had no concern for what the Lord desired, and was only thinking of himself.  
Have you ever seen somebody else's actions in worship and felt adamant that they were wrong?  
Or have you ever convinced yourself that your motives were right in a situation where they were actually wrong?  
As you look at the synoptic accounts (Matthew & Mark) - they reveal that Judas wasn't the only one shocked by Mary.  
How can we get to a place where, rather than condemn the good as if it's evil, we fully embrace it and join in  
(even if we're thought to be strange/weird/improper/shameful)

5. Lazarus is a part of this story again - joining in the meal with Christ and "reclining at table"

(Remember, he was dead for four days and the Lord commanded him to come out of the tomb and he did).

How does this passage give a bit of foreshadowing as to what awaits all of those who are alive in Christ Jesus?

This is a man who's committed no crime, but him being alive testifies of Jesus' power and authority.

So the Chief Priests determine, not only to kill Jesus, but also Lazarus (to try to keep the people from believing in Jesus!)

We aren't given any clear indication if they succeeded in this, but it certainly demonstrates the opposition he faced.

Given what Lazarus had experienced, how much fear of these men do you think he would have had?

Do you think he was afraid of dying again after experiencing Christ's power over death in his own resurrection?

What about you?

You & I know that Jesus will raise all of us to glory with Him (if we are His), and we have no reason to fear!

Does Lazarus story increase your boldness to share your faith with others?

Do you sense an urgency to tell them about Jesus regardless of the outcome since your life is in His hands?

(Read Jesus' words in Matthew 10:26-33 to help give you some perspective on this issue).

6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

**1. Every blessing that you have you've received from God!**

*So joyfully & willingly steward it all for His glory!*

**2. Pay attention to your motives in all that you do!**

*Check yourself before you wreck yourself!*

**3. Expect opposition as you seek to bring glory to Jesus!**

*Sometimes opposition comes from unexpected places!*

**4. Love and serve Jesus whatever it costs you!**

*Trust Jesus - the eternal future with Him is worth it all!*