

06 November

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 25



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member that Mary used expensive perfume to anoint Jesus and wipe His feet with her hair?
2. How do we know this was Jesus' final week before His crucifixion? **(v.1; Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany...).**
3. What did Martha do for Jesus according to v.2? **(v.2; There they made Him a supper, and Martha served...).**
4. According to v.3, what did Mary do as an act of worship to Jesus' feet? **(v.3; Mary anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair...).**



Let's go deeper

5. How did Judas respond to Mary in v.5? **(He criticized her, and said why was this oil not sold for 300 denarii and given to the poor?).**
6. How did Jesus defend Mary in v.7? **(Jesus said; "let her alone, she has kept this for the day of my burial.")**
7. Why did many Jews come to Martha and Mary's house according to v.9 **(...not only for Jesus' sake, but that they might also see Lazarus.).**
8. Why did many Jews believe in Jesus according to v.11? **(Because on account of him (Lazarus), many of the Jews believed in Jesus.).**



Let's apply this

9. John 12:7; But Jesus said; "let her alone, she has kept this for the day of My burial."

Mary had a radical friendship with Jesus, in that she loved Him more than her expensive perfume, she believed Him more than His disciples when He said He is about to die, and she understood that a life of giving is greater than receiving.

- How is your friendship with Jesus?
- Sit at Jesus' feet this week, and listen to His voice.

SUMMARY:

Gospel of John: Week 25 (Mary anoints Jesus).

Read: John 12:1 – 11.

v.1; This is Jesus' final six days before His crucifixion. Passover is the annual feast of the Jewish people celebrating and remembering how God rescued and delivered them from Egypt. This is the third time in John's gospel that the Passover is mentioned; and reveals that Jesus' public ministry lasted three years.

v.2; Martha, Mary and Lazarus held a dinner in honour of Jesus to celebrate what He has done for them. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus worship in three different ways, yet they are unified. Martha shows her love and devotion to Jesus by doing things, she worships with her hands. Mary is almost the opposite; she worships by sitting at Jesus' feet and listening. Lazarus later in v.11, will use his testimony to worship.

v.3; Mary shows us that life is not about getting things, but about giving. Mary is constantly found at the feet of Jesus, when she is joyful or when she is sad. In wiping Jesus' feet, Mary is taking the position of a lowly slave. Men walked with open-toed sandals and their feet got very dirty, and Mary uses her hair to wipe Jesus' feet. For Mary to wipe Jesus' feet with her hair, she had to untie her hair which was against her culture. In those times a woman did not untie her hair in public; only her husband was allowed to see her with her hair untied in private. In 1 Cor. 11:15; Paul tells us that a woman's glory is in her hair.

v.4 – 6; The first thing Judas Iscariot does is he criticizes Mary. Martha and Mary are hosting and paying for the dinner, and Judas contributes nothing, yet he criticizes Mary publicly. John mentions that Judas was a thief. So, the question is did Judas really care about feeding the poor or rather helping himself?

v.7 – 8; Jesus defends Mary. Mary did not say anything to Judas, she just kept focusing on worshiping Jesus. Jesus says an incredible thing about Mary; "she kept this perfume for the day of my burial." Mary had great faith in Jesus' words and knew that He was going to die and be buried. Jesus says; "you will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me." Jesus says there will be opportunities to worship and love Me, and Mary only had this one opportunity to prepare Jesus' body for burial, and she took it. In a few days Jesus will die and Mary will never have had this opportunity again.

v.9 – 11; Lazarus used his testimony to point people to Jesus, and not to himself. v.11; tells us that on account of him (Lazarus' testimony), many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. A testimony is a real-life personal story of how Jesus has changed, or impacted your life either by saving you, providing for you or protecting you from potential danger.