



Leader

5/12 - Mark 14:3-9 (Mary of Bethany)

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. What is the significance of the place of Bethany in the Bible?
Bethany was a village located about two miles east of Jerusalem. Bethany was well-known for being the hometown of Jesus' dear friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and also cursed the fig tree in Bethany [Bethany was known by many as the "house of figs" for the amount of fig trees that were native there].
3. There are many Simon's in the Bible (Can you name some of them?). Who is Simon the Leper? Were Jesus and the disciples dining with someone who had leprosy?
Simon was a very popular name during the time of Jesus. The Bible records 12 different Simon's in the Bible, that is why the name Simon is often accompanied by another identifying "nickname." It is unknown who exactly Simon the Leper was, but some scholars believe He was the Father of Martha, Mary and Lazarus. It is very likely that Simon was healed by Jesus since lepers lived in isolation away from others. Dining with a leper would have been considered "unclean."
4. What do we know about this ointment? What is the significance about Mary's action towards Jesus?
This ointment was aromatic pure nard oil extracted from an Indian or Arabian root. The sale of this oil would have been 300 days' wages (300 dinarii). It was a gesture that would have stunned anyone around...and it did.
5. Verses 6-7 seem to indicate that Jesus is more concerned about Himself than the poor. How should we receive this verse?
Jesus knows and understands that the poor will always be present among them (Duet. 5:11), so he encourages them to relish in the moment that is before them because His time with them is quickly fading.
6. Jesus said, "She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial." Some of you have experienced the death of a loved one. Maybe you had precious moments with them before their passing. How does your experience bring this story to life in your heart and mind?
[Dialogue]
7. What is ironic about this story?
We are talking about this story in memory of Mary, just as Jesus stated.

8. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- Gotquestions.org - "Bethany" and "Simon the Leper"