

Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 12:1-11

- 1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where Lazarus was, the one Jesus had raised from the dead.
- 2 So they gave a dinner for him there; Martha was serving them, and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him.
- 3 Then Mary took a pound of perfume, pure and expensive nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped his feet with her hair. So the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- 4 Then one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was about to betray him), said,
- 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"
- 6 He didn't say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the money-bag and would steal part of what was put in it.
- 7 Jesus answered, "Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of my burial.
- 8 For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."
- 9 Then a large crowd of the Jews learned he was there. They came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, the one he had raised from the dead.
- 10 But the chief priests had decided to kill Lazarus also,
- 11 because he was the reason many of the Jews were deserting them and believing in Jesus.

Sermon Summary:

John chapter 12:1-11 is a continuation of the sign of the raising of Lazarus. Although the raising of Lazarus is the pivot point, the two sisters, Martha and Mary are the dominant characters of this narrative. These two disciples of Jesus have different personalities and therefore have different responses to Jesus. They give us two different models of a disciple's life in following Jesus. Martha, the vocal one, gives herself to care for Jesus by preparing food. Mary, the quiet one, gives herself to show her love by washing Jesus' feet with expensive ointment. One is caring for Jesus in the present, the other caring for Jesus for the future, that is for his soon to be burial. These two women give us

good models and show us that as disciples we don't all have the same response or actions. We should care for Jesus and respond to Jesus based on who we are.

Discussion:

1. What are the indications that Martha and Mary have key roles (other than Jesus) in the sign of raising Lazarus?
2. Why is it important that both Martha and Mary are included in this narrative?
3. What are the signs that they are devoted disciples of Jesus?
4. What are their different roles?
5. How can our roles as disciples change over our lifetime?
6. What are the excuses that some people (maybe you) use to not be fully committed disciples of Jesus?
7. Was Mary's devotion "over the top" or extreme? Did she go too far? Discuss.
8. Why is it important to act when we can?

End with Prayer