

S O N R I S E C H U R C H

Life Group Bible Study

Worth, Humility & Command

John 12:1–8, 12–16, 23–24

Key Thoughts

1. **Jesus is of immeasurable worth.** Mary's anointing, a year's wages poured on the feet of Jesus, reveals that true devotion holds nothing back, while Judas's objection reveals that selfish hearts always calculate the cost of worshiping Christ.
2. **Worship is measured in sacrifice, not sentiment.** Mary honored Jesus as King and humbled herself as less than a servant in the same motion. Words are easy; what we lay at His feet reveals what He is truly worth to us.
3. **Jesus enters as a humble Savior-King.** Fulfilling Zechariah 9:9, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, not a war horse, because He came in peace to wage the one war no army could win: the defeat of sin and death.
4. **Jesus is in complete command.** He was never carried along by events and never a victim. He would lay down His life on His own initiative, with full authority to take it up again (John 10:17–18).
5. **The grain must fall.** Jesus teaches that unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone (John 12:24). His death was the only path to the harvest, and if there had been another way, He would have taken it.

Discussion Questions

1. Read John 12:3–6. What does Mary's act of anointing Jesus' feet, rather than just His head, reveal about her understanding of who Jesus is? What does Judas's response reveal about his heart?
2. Jesus says, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). How does this truth challenge the way we think about our time, talents, and treasure?
3. The crowd at the Triumphal Entry shouted "Hosanna! Save us!" but didn't understand how Jesus would save. In what ways do we still want Jesus to save us on our terms rather than His?

4. Read John 10:17–18. What difference does it make that no one took Jesus' life from Him, that He laid it down willingly?
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5. In John 12:24, Jesus compares His death to a grain of wheat falling into the ground. What "fruit" came from His death, and what does this metaphor teach about the cost of fruitfulness in our own lives?
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6. Personal: Mary's sacrifice showed that nothing was too costly to lay at Jesus' feet. The sermon challenged us to consider our own stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. Where are you most tempted to hold back from God, and what is one specific step you can take this week to loosen that grip?"
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Applications

1. **Examine your sacrifice:** This week, honestly evaluate how you steward your time, talent, and treasure. Ask: "If God reviewed my calendar, my gifts, and my giving, what would He say?"
2. **Lay something costly at His feet:** Identify one specific, sacrificial act of devotion you can offer this week. Give generously, serve somewhere new, or surrender time you normally guard for yourself.
3. **Stop riding the wave; follow with purpose:** Like Jesus, who walked intentionally toward the cross, choose one area of obedience you've been drifting on and take a deliberate step forward this week.

Closing Prayer

Father, we stand in awe of Your Son, a King who rode to His own death so we could live. Forgive us for calculating the cost of worshiping You. Forgive us for holding back what was never ours to begin with. Give us the heart of Mary, willing to pour out our most costly offering at the feet of Jesus. Remind us that He was never a victim. He chose the cross for us, and He alone has authority over life and death. Now move us to respond: to lay down our time, our talents, and our treasure and to follow Him with purpose, not drift. Like the grain of wheat, let our surrender bear fruit for Your Kingdom and Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.