



3-18-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

"Road to Jerusalem - Anointed"



Context

Throughout the season of Lent, we are walking with Jesus on his journey to the cross, on the road to Jerusalem. In Luke 9:51, it says that Jesus resolutely set his face toward Jerusalem. Each week, we'll get one step closer to Jerusalem, to the cross, and learn from Jesus along the way. While taking this journey, we'll take an extra look at the geography and history of this journey – using maps and pictures of the Holy Land.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

What is the craziest thing you've done for love? Was it expensive? Did it require a lot of time? Was it worth it in the end? How could you tell?

Discussing the Text – John 12:1-8

1. What does Mary do that makes others so upset?
2. Who gets the most upset about what Mary did for Jesus?
3. Read Luke 10:38-42. How does our passage in John 12 connect to Luke 10? Describe the main characters in each story. What are they like?
4. Read Deuteronomy 15:11. How does this verse compare to what Jesus said in John 12:8? How is it different?

So what?

1. This event is also recorded in Matthew 26:1 and Mark 14:1, with a similar (possibly the same?) the story in Luke 7:36. This event had significance for 3 if not all 4 of the Gospel writers. Why do you think this story about Jesus' anointing was so influential? What does it tell us about Jesus?
2. Throughout the Gospel accounts, Jesus' disciples refused to believe that Jesus was going to die be killed in Jerusalem (see Matthew 16:22). Yet Mary anoints Jesus for burial in this passage. She is the first one to recognize what Jesus must do, and she is a woman. What could this tell us about the role of women in the Bible?
3. When we show our devotion to God, should we be concerned about how much it costs? Is there a point when we are being wasteful?
4. Should a church significant dollars and resources to worship God well when there are so many needs in the community and the world? How do decide this?
5. What does this passage teach us about worship?
6. How can you apply this passage to your life this week?

Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite the group take time each day this week, worshipping God in prayer.