

FRAGRANCE OF LIFE

• All In Group Discussion Guide •
Fifth Week Of Lent

SCRIPTURE

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

Philippians 3:7-10

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

FRAGRANCE OF LIFE

• All In Group Discussion Guide •
Fifth Week of Lent

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introductions:

- Share about yourself: what is your favorite sports team?
- How long have you been a loyal fan?

Scripture Reflection:

- What do we learn about God (traits, personality, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection:

- There is a contrast between Mary's discipleship and Judas' comments—the difference between talking about God and knowing God. What do you make of that distinction? Are works more important, or faith, both?
- Frederick Beuchner says, "The journey of faith is moving from the word "God" to the word "you." Have you ever felt an intimate relationship with God, intimate enough to refer to God as "you?" What keeps us from getting there? What could help us get there?
- Josh contrasted the stench of Lazarus' death with the fragrance of Mary's perfume. Where have you seen "the fragrance of life" amidst difficult times, even death, in your own life or in the world?
- Josh claimed that one of the biggest problems for the church today is helping people who long to experience something bigger than themselves. How might the church minister to that problem?

Closing Question & Application:

- Given our discussion, how might God want you to apply your learning in your life or in your community in the next week? Who might you share this with?

Concluding Prayer:

- Hold hands and have one person open in prayer. When they're done they squeeze the hand of the person next to them. When a person's hand is squeezed they can either pray aloud then squeeze the hand next to them or "pass."

Join us Wednesday mornings in Lent at 7:00 am for Lenten Prayer Breakfast!