

## Home Group Notes 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019; John 12:1-8

### Welcome

Have you ever been in a position when something you have said or done has been completely misinterpreted? How did you feel?

### Worship: *Read Psalm 63 together*

Reflect on the deep love that King David had for God.

Pray that our love for God might even exceed King David's.

### Word

1. By way of context read John 10:22- 11:57. In your own words summarise the narrative in this passage.  
Why did the Jews take up stone to stone Jesus (10:24-31)?  
In what ways is Jesus vulnerable, courageous and strong?  
Why did the Chief Priest, Pharisees and Council plot to kill Jesus (11:45-53)?  
What did they argue was the reason? What was the true reason?
2. Read John 12:1-8.  
Compare the two characters of Martha and Mary.  
How might these reflect types of people in a Christian church today?  
Why should we all try to do both things:
  - a. Practical jobs, provide hospitality, engage in mission, etc.
  - b. Study God's Word through Bible reading, Bible study groups, discussion in our families, private reflection.
3. The nard that Mary used to anoint Jesus's feet was worth about a year's wages in the first century.  
Think about where Mary might have acquired the money to buy the nard.  
To what extent do you think this might have been a sacrifice by Mary?  
To reveal her hair, in the presence of men, used to wipe Jesus's feet, was a rather shocking act by Mary. Why do you think she risked her reputation in this way?  
Do you think this might also have been a sacrifice?
4. What is it about Mary that might lead us to suspect that she understood

- a. What was about to happen to Jesus?
  - b. Who Jesus really was?
5. The washing of guests' feet was an accepted act of hospitality in first century Israel.  
What is different about Mary's act of anointing Jesus's feet?  
Why was it an appropriate act rather than an act of extravagance or sensuality?
  6. What is Judas's stated objection to Mary's act?  
What might be his financial motive?  
What might a further motive be in light of what he is about to do?
  7. Do you think Judas has a valid point about waste?  
Read Amos 6:3-7.  
How does Jesus justify Mary's act?  
Does Jesus's remark that the poor are always with us relieve us from helping the poor?  
Read Luke 4:18, 14:13, Matthew 19:21 Leviticus 19:10.

### Witness

How might we broaden our own ministry to fully combine those of Martha and Mary?

How can we more fully express our love for God, as Mary did?

Think of modern day examples of people in authority promising things to the poor but ending up enriching the rich.

How might we guard against our own selfish motives when criticising other for their waste?

How do we help the poor? What more can we do?

### PRAYERS

- **Our government and the Brexit conundrum.**
- **Pray for the newly elected PCC, the officers and ministry team.**
- **Pray for the outreach of our churches.**
- **Pray for the many church groups that meet throughout the week**
- **Pray for the sick and those who have lost loved ones.**
- **Pray for each other and our families and friends.**