

Three Who Met Jesus

**Studies in Preparation for
Easter**

**An interactive Bible study for
individuals, families,
and LIFE Groups**

~March 25-31, 2007~

“Such a Waste!”

John 12:1-8



Life Groups

In this series of Bible studies, we are focusing on people who encountered Jesus as He neared the final week of His life on earth (known as Passion Week). Each week this discussion guide will help you reflect upon the Sunday sermon and apply its content to your life. Whether you work through these lessons on your own, with a friend, or in your family or LIFE Group, we believe they will help you have your own personal encounter with Jesus. If you ever miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at www.upc-orlando.com.

LISTEN

Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:

SHARE

This week's lesson focuses on Jesus' encounter with Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, in John 12:1-8. Mary anointed Jesus' feet with very expensive perfume. Have you ever given or received a really extravagant gift? Describe:

REFLECT

a) Look back at John 11:1-44, where Jesus learns of the death of his friend Lazarus and raises him from the dead. How does this event inform our reading of John 12:1-8?

b) Read Luke 10:38-42. What does that passage tell you about Mary? What are some of her qualities and values?

c) What do Mary's actions in John 12:3 say to you about her feelings towards Jesus?

d) Mary anoints Jesus' feet rather than his head. What does her choice express?

e) Why is Mary's pouring of ointment on Jesus' feet not wasteful, as Judas Iscariot claimed it was (vs. 5)?

f) How is Judas contrasted with Mary in this passage?

g) We see Jesus once again expressing his mission in this passage. What is it?

APPLY

a) This week's study challenges us to ask ourselves how much we delight in Christ. Is your worship of Christ an extravagant "waste"? Perhaps another way of asking that question is this: What are the things of this world (possessions, power, recognition, etc.) that you hold onto instead of Jesus?

b) What are the things within you (pride, worry, anger, etc.) that prevent you from complete, Mary-like surrender to Jesus?

c) If you really poured yourself out in delight of Jesus, what would be different?

d) How does Jesus' mission encourage you to delight in Him?

All for Jesus!
(A hymn by Mary D. James, 1889)

All for Jesus! All for Jesus! All my being's ransomed pow'rs,
All my thoughts and words and doings, all my days and all my hours.

Worldlings prize their gems of beauty, cling to gilded toys of dust,
Boast of wealth and fame and pleasure; only Jesus will I trust.

Since my eyes were fixed on Jesus, I've lost sight of all beside;
So enchained my spirit's vision, looking at the Crucified.

O what wonder! How amazing! Jesus, glorious King of kings,
Deigns to call me His beloved, lets me rest beneath His wings!