

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. In his message Pastor Mike said that we will always naturally and freely give what is important to us in the pursuit of what of what we believe is of supreme value.
 - a. What do you think he meant by this? Do you agree? Is this a rule that is always true, or are there exceptions? Explain your answer?
 - b. He also said that everyone has some thing or some things that we believe are of supreme value. Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - c. Do actions always reveal what is truly of supreme value? Will what we value most always be revealed by where we spend our most precious resources – our time and money? Do actions ever lie?

2. John 12 tells us that Mary, Martha and Lazarus were part of a dinner to honor Jesus, which Mary disrupted when she took a pound of extremely expensive ointment, worth a year's worth of wages (about \$20,000) and she poured it all on Jesus.
 - a. Put yourself in that situation; Could you imagine someone pouring out a perfume worth \$20,000 onto the feet of Jesus? How would you naturally respond? Why would you respond in this way? How do you think rest of the people at the dinner responded?
 - b. Why did Mary do this?
 - c. If this is to be seen as an example, what is God calling us to do?

3. When Mary took down her hair and wiped Jesus feet with her it, she did something that was shocking and scandalous in that culture. She took what was thought to be a woman's symbol of her glory and beauty, and she used to wash Jesus' feet.
 - a. What do you think motivated this woman to act in this way?
 - b. Can you think of a time when you've seen someone act with this type of passionate abandon in their love and commitment to Jesus? Are you more likely to see that kind of action and attitude positively or negatively? Why?
 - c. What might this type of abandoned passionate love of Jesus look like today in our culture? What might it look like in your life?

4. John focuses not just on Judas' negative reaction to pouring out something that cost so much on Jesus' feet, but also on his real motivation – he was in it for the money. John seems to link this event to Judas' betrayal of Jesus. How could this event have led to or contributed to Judas' decision to betray Jesus?

5. In his message Pastor Mike said that there are two kinds of people in the church; those who see Jesus as their ultimate source of meaning and joy, and who will as a result invest what is important to pursue this ultimate end, and those who believe that God means to a greater end – a powerful ally to help us attain what will make us happy.
 - a. Do you agree with this divide, and that everyone falls into one group or another? Why or why not?
 - b. Which group are you in? What does the testimony of your life, and the way you invest what is important to you say about which group you are in?
 - c. How do we make God our ultimate source of joy and meaning – our ultimate treasure?