



This Week's Topic...

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A WHOLE NEW LIFE?

Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing?

Don't forget the Palm Sunday egg hunt is this week! Egg Hunt, Free food, Easter Bunny photos, and a meaningful Stations of the Cross experience.
April 13, 4-6 PM, Independence Park

Prayer Requests

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

Discussion Questions

- **What changed Mary's plans?** Why do you think Mary didn't wait until Jesus' death to use the perfume? What does that say about how we might respond to God's presence in our lives today?
- **What motivates our faith?** The sermon cast asked: "Why do we worship, serve, and give?" Take time to reflect—what motivates your spiritual practices? Guilt? Habit? Gratitude?
- **What does new life look like for you?** If someone asked you how your life is different because of Jesus, what would you say? Where do you see signs of new life in your identity, purpose, or hope?

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Mary's extravagant act was a response to the gift of life Jesus had given. This is a perfect picture of the Christian life.

Did You Know?

There are several important women named Mary in the New Testament, and it's easy to confuse them. Here are three of the most significant:

- **Mary of Bethany** – The sister of Martha and Lazarus. She appears in Luke 10 (sitting at Jesus' feet while Martha serves) and John 12 (anointing Jesus with costly perfume). Her devotion and love for Jesus are remembered as examples of true discipleship.
- **Mary Magdalene** – A close follower of Jesus who is often mistakenly conflated with Mary of Bethany. Mary Magdalene is mentioned in all four Gospels as a witness to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. She is the first to encounter the risen Christ in John 20 and is sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles."
- **Mary, the mother of Jesus** – Perhaps the most well-known Mary, she plays a central role in the birth narratives and is present at key moments in Jesus' life, including the crucifixion. Her faith and obedience to God have made her a model of discipleship across centuries.

These three women named Mary each respond to Jesus in powerful ways—with presence, with courage, and with extravagant love.