

Home group notes - w/b 6th April 2014 – Jesus is anointed

Use as much or as little as you wish. Do not rush through to answer all the questions; if you spend the time on just one area, that's fine.

Question the text: All four gospels have a story about a woman anointing Jesus. Some of the phrases are very similar, but there are also some major differences. Do they all describe the same event and, if so, what is the point for readers and hearers?

Read: Mark 14:3-9; Matthew 26:6-13; Luke 7:36-50; and John 12:1-9

Fill in the chart below to help sort out what happened in each case.

	Matthew 26:6-16	Mark 14:3-10	Luke 7:36-48	John 12:1-9
When did it happen?				
Whose house?				
Who was present?				
Who anointed Jesus? With what?				
What part of his body?				
What reaction from others? Who?				
What reaction from Jesus? To whom?				
What was the main point of the teaching that Jesus drew out?				

We will never know for sure, but it seems likely that there were two separate incidents, at least. Which one seems to be most different from the other three? Probably the most significant guide is the teaching that Jesus drew out. Probably irrelevant, but look at Jn 6:71 to see the name of Judas Iscariot's father!

Discuss and pray about:

Devotion to Jesus. Do you give extravagantly? How do you view people who seem to go over the top? Do those who have gained most give most?

Being accepted. Notice how Jesus accepts the different offerings of Martha and Mary and values them both (see also John 11:20-35 and Luke 10:38-42)

Urgency in acknowledging Jesus – what will happen very soon? For whom might it be urgent today?

Division – contrast the actions of the woman / women with those of the religious leaders. Who are really righteous? Are we in any danger of ranking our religious observances or practices above the devotions of individuals? What is the right mix of head knowledge and order vs touchy-feely?

Pray: for each other; for things which have come up in the study; for specific needs or anxieties or about faith.