

THE DAILY FLIP DEVOTIONAL

*Learning to live life upside down,
one day at a time*

Scripture

John 12:1-11

1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" 6 (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.) 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." 9 When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, 11 since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

: Story Tellers :

1

Mark 14:3-9

3 While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. 4 But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? 5 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. 6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a beautiful service for me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. 9 Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

: Story Tellers:

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Study Questions

Monday: As Americans we spend over \$60 billion dollars on the beauty/cosmetic industry every year. Reflect on how TV, movies, magazines, the Internet, the mall and thousands of advertisements train you to see beauty in a certain way. What might it mean if the gospel was your standard of beauty?

Tuesday: Reflect on what it might mean that Jesus reveals to us what is truly beautiful and how His suffering and death are particularly paradoxically beautiful (John 19).

Wednesday: Jesus' extravagant love is something His disciples are called to do. Mary of Bethany, as a disciple of Jesus does something very costly and beautiful (John 12:1-8). Reflect on how scary it might have been for her to do what she did (spending a years a salary and touching a man's feet in a culture where that would be forbidden)? How might this be a model of discipleship?

Thursday: Judas and the disciples are very pragmatic. \$40,000 could have gone a long way to help the poor; surely this was a waste of resources. But they were not able to see what Jesus saw. Are there plans, routines, or distractions that might keep you from seeing the one thing that matters? (Mark 14:3-9).

Friday: Mary of Bethany was called to spend a years worth of salary to anoint Jesus for his burial? What is the beautiful thing you are being called to do? (John 12:1-11)

Saturday: If Jesus's self abandonment on the cross is the height of beauty, if His beauty marks are the scars in His hands, side and feet, then discipleship means living and growing into that image. What will be your scars of love?

TODAY @ THE FLIPSIDE

Story Tellers Summer Series

Speaker: Brian Lugioyo

Notes: