
Encounters - Week 5

5/12 - 5/17/24

S.O.A.P.

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." 9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

John 12:1-10, NIV

1. What does Mary's encounter with Jesus teach us about the nature of extravagant love? How can we apply this concept of extravagant love in our own lives, particularly in our relationships with Jesus and others?
3. How can our acts of love and devotion to Jesus leave a lasting impact on those around us, and what are some practical ways we can ensure that our love for Jesus permeates every aspect of our lives?
4. Jesus's response to Mary's action emphasizes the significance of her act, stating that wherever the Gospel is preached, her deed will be remembered and discussed. How does this prophecy challenge us to consider the legacy of our own actions of love and devotion to Jesus? What steps can we take to ensure that our lives bear witness to Christ's extravagant love?