

SUNDAY STUDY | church on the drive

Scripture: Matthew 26:6-13



Socially distant, spiritually connected - During this time when we have to keep a safe distance from each other, we want to be socially distant, but spiritually connected. In order to do that, we as a body of believers are all studying the same thing today! You are invited to take out a journal and record your thoughts through this bible study and share them with members of your community group and/or family, whether via telephone or in person.

1. Prayer

- a. Thank God for today and all that you get to enjoy as part of it
- b. Pray for people you love
- c. Pray for people you have trouble loving
- d. Ask God's help - for you, for our city, for our world
- e. Pray for our leaders - government and church
- f. Ask God to help you minister to those around you in the best possible way

2. Read Matthew 26:6-7

- a. Bethany was a village on the Mount of Olives nearly two miles east of Jerusalem. It is here that Simon the Leper lives. We are not told whether or not Simon has been healed, but he very well could be; otherwise, he would have been ritually unclean. Jesus's meal with a man who either had been or currently was a leper in a humble home outside of Jerusalem is in stark contrast to the palace of the high priest mentioned in the preceding passage.
- b. The woman is not focused on or given a name as in John 12:1-8. Instead, her action takes center stage. She pours very expensive perfume on Jesus's head. This perfume is not the same as the oil used to anoint someone for office. Instead, this is a lavish gesture of devotion.
- c. **If you had been in the room with them, how do you think you would have responded to such an extravagant gesture?**

3. Read Matthew 26:8-13

- a. The disciples were completely oblivious to the deeper meaning of the anointing of Jesus. In fact, they were probably full of confidence that Jesus would overthrow the Romans and they would help. They had no reason to believe he would die so they had no cause to see the woman's act as a burial anointing.
- b. The disciples believe they're on the right track here because Jesus has reinforced the idea throughout his ministry that his disciples should take care of the poor. Jesus makes it clear that the poor are a reality of every society of every age, but Jesus will not always be physically with them.

- c. The woman anointed Jesus with expensive perfume, but it is unlikely that she knew she was anointing him for burial. She probably was simply showing her devotion to Jesus by giving the most expensive thing she had to him. Jesus knows, however, what is to come and recognizes this as a burial anointing, even if she doesn't. As a result, he says, people will always remember what she did for Jesus.
 - i. **What does this woman's gift teach you about giving to others?**
 - ii. **How do you approach giving to God? Do you do so out of devotion or out of obligation? Which do you think God prefers?**

- 4. **This week:** Join us in 30 Days of Prayer leading up to the election and look for a way to be generous to someone who cannot pay you back.