



SEPTEMBER 26

SIGNS

THE ANOINTING

This weekend we continued our series in the Gospel of John and saw Mary pour out her perfume on Jesus because He was worth everything to her. We saw that if we want to grow in our relationship with Jesus, He needs to be our top pursuit and love. This week we will explore passages of Scripture that encourage us to look at our lives and our priorities.

Before you jump in, take a few moments to prepare your heart by reading the following passage:

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:1-2***



READ

What does the Word say about this topic?

Take a few moments to read the following passages. As you read, write down any words or insights that jump out to you. We will be referring back to these passages later.

- Philippians 3:1-14
- Psalm 27
- Matthew 13:44-46
- Luke 10:38-42



REFLECT

What do these passages reveal about the worth of God?

1. After listening to this weekend's message and having read through the passages above, what is your top takeaway? Why?
2. In Philippians 3, Paul uses strong language to declare how valuable knowing Jesus is to him. How did Paul compare his previous gains in life to the value of knowing Jesus?
3. In Psalm 27, what is the one thing that David seeks the most?
 - Reread verses 4-6. List all the things that will happen while dwelling in *the house of the Lord*.
 - Which one sticks out to you the most? Why?
4. What is Jesus' main point in the two short parables in Matthew 13? What actions did the person take when he discovered his treasure?

5. Reread Luke 10:38-42. Watch the different actions that Mary and Martha are doing and pay special attention to Jesus' response.

- What is Martha doing?
- What is Mary doing?
- What does Martha say to Jesus?
- What is Jesus' response?



RESPOND

In light of these truths, how does God want me to live?

1. To what extent do you agree with Paul in Philippians 3:8, when he writes that everything is “garbage” in comparison to knowing Jesus?

- To what extent does the way you spend your time and resources reflect this value in your life? Explain.

2. As we learned this weekend, Mary valued Jesus so much that she anointed Jesus with an entire vial of extremely valuable perfume. This may have been her most valuable possession. Compare this to the parables in Matthew 13. What were these two men willing to give up, and why?

- Has there ever been a time in your life when you gave up something good so that you might get something better? If so, what was that experience?
- What were some things that you gave up when you came to Jesus because His value was so much greater to you?

3. This weekend Michael asked, “*How Much . . . Is Jesus Worth To You?*” Where would you put yourself on the spectrum below, and why?

Judas (Disillusioned)

Mary (Devoted)



- Where do you want to be, and why?

4. Michael shared this weekend that sometimes we come to critical crossroads in our lives where we have to decide how valuable we want Jesus to become for us. Can you think of any examples of these crossroads in your past? If so, what was the choice you needed to make and how did you respond?

- Are there any *crossroad-decisions* you need to make in your life currently, to move up the scale? If so, what are they?

5. Michael also shared about two different kinds of Christian leaders who spoke at chapel in his college. He called the first *Lifestyle* Christians. These were leaders who loved the Word, lived a Christian lifestyle, and served the Kingdom in significant ways. The second kind of leaders he called *Lord and Lover* Christians. These Christ-followers also loved the Word, lived a Christian lifestyle, and served the Kingdom—but there was something special about them. Their whole lives and ministry seemed to flow out of a deep love for Jesus, much like Mary. Is there anyone in your life that displays this type of *Lord and Lover* relationship with Jesus?

- What is so attractive about this mentality and lifestyle?

6. Jesus loves when we come humbly before Him to pray and listen, just as we saw with Mary in Luke 10. Martha was busy working for Jesus while Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet. Do you naturally gravitate towards being more like Martha or Mary? Explain how that looks in your life.

- What does it look like for you to sit at the feet of Jesus?
- Last, take some time to be like Mary right now and spend a few minutes praying about what you learned this weekend or through the study. Afterwards, spend a few more minutes being silent before Jesus. Enjoy sitting before Him.



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated to pray aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

- 1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time**
- 2. Pray Several Times Together**
- 3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple**