

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 03.08.2020

EXTRAVAGANT LOVE – MATTHEW 26:1-13

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

In this chapter, Matthew now turns his attention on the last few days of Jesus earthly ministry in Israel which was about 3 ½ yrs. This time of healing/teaching are coming to an end. It is now time for Jesus to fulfill His work on the Cross. Yet it is not a sad ending, for all along Jesus has made it clear the apex of His time on earth would be His death and then Resurrection! *It was for this very purpose Jesus came, as these events hold the key to Israel and the world's salvation and the restoration of the Davidic Kingdom.* Jesus is now finished speaking of the Last Days and points to Passover in a few days – the celebration of Israel's Deliverance from slavery during the days of Pharaoh. A woman who had an alabaster jar filled with very expensive perfume approaches Jesus. We are told by John the estimated value of the perfume was 300 denarii, *which is almost a year's wage.* Only John identifies this woman as Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What stood out or spoke to you most from Pastor Ray's message this weekend?
2. Has anyone ever done something for you that showed extravagant love? What was it? Share your story with the group.

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 26:1-5

1. The Scribes and Pharisees did not want to put Jesus to death during Passover, but that's exactly what happened! What does this tell you about who is really in control over Jesus death?
2. The Passover was a time to remember Israel's deliverance out of Egypt was near. What did Jesus tell His disciples was going to happen during the Passover (v. 2)?
3. Matthew records an event that occurred in the palace of the high priest. Who was the high priest and what occurred in his palace (vv. 3-5)?

The chief priests, scribes and elders... plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. The long controversy between Jesus and the religious leaders has finally come to this. "Not During The Feast" - This is another indication that Jesus was in control of events, as they in fact killed Him on the very day they didn't want to. The leaders are right in fearing the people. Jerusalem's population swells fivefold during the Passover. And with Messianic expectation at a fevered pitch a spark might set off an explosion.

## *On Fire for God in 2018*

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 26:6-13**

1. Where in Bethany was Jesus (v. 6)? What is very unusual about the place He stayed?
2. A woman came into the place Jesus was staying. Who was this woman (see John 12:3)? What did she do to Jesus (v. 7)?
3. When the disciples saw what the woman did, what was their attitude and reaction (v.8-9)? Which disciple reacted that way (see John 12:4)? Why (see John 12:6.)?
4. Jesus defended the woman's actions and explained why she performed them (v. 10). What was the reason for her lavish demonstration (v. 12)?
5. What did Jesus say would be done as a memorial to the woman (v. 13)?

**Mary had more faith in the promises of Christ than the disciples. She had real faith that each thing would happen just as Christ said it would happen. Today her name is remembered for her faith. Christ said that her faith would be shared wherever the Gospel was shared. As a result, the faith of Mary has been proclaimed throughout the entire world. Christ said that this would be a memorial to her. Here we see that Christ chose to honor the faith of Mary. This reminds us that Christ focuses on different things than the world. His great concern is to see true faith lived out.**

#### **Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Mary reveals pure worship. She found at His feet her blessing, she brought to His feet her burdens, and she gave at His feet her best. Combining the Gospels, we discover she anointed both His head and His feet and wiped His feet w/her hair. A woman's hair is her glory! She surrenders her glory to the Lord and worshipped Him w/her gift. Her gift filled the house. She knew His body would not need traditional care given to the dead for His body would not see corruption (Psalm 16:10). Instead of anointing His body after His death she did so before His death. A prophetic act of faith and love!**

1. Do you think that you could have the kind of faith that Mary exemplified? Explain in your own words.
2. Today many people have fears about what going in in the world with the Corona Virus and economic downturns. How can you be a person who like Mary chose to show faith and extravagant love in the face of trials and uncertainty?

**PRAYER – Take time to pray for one another's needs. This week seek to have a heart of faith and compassion in all circumstances just as Mary did.**

***"For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."***

***Matthew 26:12-13***