

**Sunday, April 3, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – John 12:1-8  
“Filled with the Fragrance”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, respond to the following, “What is the best gift you’ve ever given or received?”

**John 12:1-8 Context.** In the previous chapter, Jesus had gone to Bethany and had raised his friend Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus’ two sisters, Mary and Martha, along with many other Jews had come to believe in Jesus – so many that the religious leaders thought that they might get out of hand and prompt the Romans to destroy both the Temple and Jerusalem. From that point on the religious leaders plotted to kill Jesus. Jesus went into hiding until the feast of Passover was drawing near, and then came back to be with his friends at Bethany before making the fateful pilgrimage to Jerusalem that would end in his crucifixion. (Note: a “denarius” was a day’s wage in Jesus’ time.)

**Read John 12:1-8**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read John 12:1-8 again.**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- What is the importance of noting, “six days before the Passover” in verse one? [We are nearing the death of Jesus.]
- Imagine you were in the room when this event happened? What did it smell like? What would have been your reaction?
- Why might Judas Iscariot have raised a good point in verse 5?
- What might Mary’s motivation for this action have been? How is Mary’s action a prefiguring of Jesus’ death? [Both are acts of selfless, loving service.]
- Considering Mary’s action shown to be exemplary, what might Jesus mean in verse 8?

- (R) What might this passage be calling us to do?

**Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God of Extravagance, we acknowledge that our ways are not always your ways. We acknowledge that in your economy, love and service are more precious than the costliness of any item. Reshape our desires and values that they would come more in line with the values of your kingdom. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.