

Growing Deeper
Sway

Week Three: *Choose to Honor*
Mark 14:1-11

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. When you think of religious leaders, do you see them as honorable? Why or why not?
2. Read in Mark 14:1-2. From this passage, how would you describe the religious leaders of Jesus' time?
3. Up to this point Jesus had been criticizing the Jewish religious leaders as “vipers” who were leading the Jews away from God. After reading what the leaders wanted to do, were they honorable religious leaders? Was Jesus' assessment wrong?
4. Have you ever plotted against someone you didn't like? Was plotting against them honorable for you and your reputation?
5. When you profess to be a Follower of Christ, people look to you as an example of what is to be Christian. When you plot against others, are you bringing honor to Christ? Is this something that you would typically consider when making decisions?
6. As you finish your FIFTEEN, think how you have represented Christ in your circle. Thank him for his honoring you and ask for forgiveness when you have dishonored him.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. Have you ever done something you were ashamed of? How do you feel when you think about it now?
8. Read Mark 14:3-9. How did this woman ask for forgiveness?
9. Mark doesn't say much about the type of woman she was, but Luke does in Luke 7:37-38. How did Luke describe her? What kind of insight does this give into her mindset?
10. Think back to question number 7. Did you believe you deserved forgiveness in this situation? How does the knowledge that Jesus forgives your sins affect how you view that time?
11. Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. How would you have reacted to such an outpouring of gratitude?

12. Are you as grateful to Jesus for all he has done for you to honor him with such an expensive gift?
13. As you conclude your FIFTEEN, think about how the woman honored Jesus. Then think about how you honor God in your life. Finish in prayer by asking God to help you honor him by sharing him with someone you know.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

14. Reread Mark 14:6-9. What is Jesus' response to the disciples' criticism of the woman's use of the perfume?
15. Jesus honors the woman by promising her actions would be remembered everywhere and for all time. Do you think the woman was hoping to be honored so generously for her actions? What do you think was her true expectation of Jesus?
16. When you do honorable things for others, do you do them to get recognition or because it is just the right thing to do? How do you feel about your answer to this question?
17. How do you honor the Lord for all he has done for you?
18. How do you choose to honor others?
19. Do you believe that the way you honor others also honors God? Why or why not?
20. End your FIFTEEN by ask the Lord for the ability to see opportunities to honor him by honoring others.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

21. Look again at Mark 14:1-11. When the disciples criticized the woman for using expensive perfume to honor Jesus, are they honoring Jesus? Why or why not?
22. At this point in the Easter story, Jesus has prophesied his own horrible death numerous times, but the disciples still haven't understood what Jesus was teaching them. Why do you really think the disciples were so bothered by the woman's actions?
23. Read Mark 14:9-11. How is Judas showing his real interests?
24. Judas goes from criticizing the woman for her immoral life and the way she chooses to spend her money to deciding

to betray Jesus. It's an interesting contrast. How does Judas' mindset about Jesus indicate how he might rationalize betraying Jesus?

25. How does your mindset about Jesus affect the way you honor him?
26. Finish your FIFTEEN by thinking about some of your decisions you have made this past week. Did they honor Jesus? If not, ask Jesus for forgiveness, being fully confident that he will forgive you.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

27. Do you look to be recognized or are you happy to honor others?
28. Read Luke 14:7-11. What seat at the table do you typically try to take?
29. Humility is difficult, but when you are honored for your humility the feeling is very rewarding. Is it still humility if you take satisfaction in being humble? Why or why not?
30. Think of a time when you tried to take an honored position in a meeting, banquet, dinner, family gathering. Were you ever embarrassed by being asked to move because someone more important needs to sit in your seat? How did/might that feel?
31. How would the table or occasion in your story above be different if Jesus was at the table? In what seat do you put Jesus?
32. As you end your final FIFTEEN this week, ask the Lord to give you a humble heart so you can best honor him in your world.