

Life Group Questions

March 18

Get-To-Know-Me Question:

- What has been your funniest/worst/smelliest experience with perfume or deodorant?

Into-the-Bible Questions:

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13

- In the ancient world, the heart represented one's will. They understood the beating heart to be linked to a person's willpower and their ability to take action. With this understanding, what might be the significance of verse 7?

- The author of 1 Samuel is very careful in his description of things and the order in which they happen. In verse 7 we talked about how God does not judge based on outward appearance. However, in verse 12, when David is first introduced to us, what is first brought to our attention? Even though God sees into our hearts, we struggle with judging people's outward appearances. Why is it so important to us?

- When one is anointed, the action claims that person for God. Once Samuel anoints David, it is a mark on David's life that God is with him. How would such knowledge shape David's life? How would it shape your life?

Let's Go Deeper:

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

1. There are a lot of different characters named in these few passages. Martha, Mary, Lazarus, Judas, and the other disciples. Let's look at some of the different characters and see how they respond. Mary took the costly perfume and anointed Jesus' feet. Such an act would be the role of a servant, is fairly intimate, and cost her greatly.
2. When Mary engages in this action, Judas reprimands her and points to the cost and how it is inappropriate. It is easy to judge others because of our own agendas. Have there been times when you have judged or questioned another Christian's actions and saw them as insincere or as not making the best use of resources? Was the judgment linked to some insecurity/agenda/lack of experience of your own?
3. Martha, Martha, Martha. The only time Martha shows up in these verses is "Martha served" in verse 2. Read Luke 10:38-42. We see Martha serving instead of visiting with Jesus. Has Martha learned anything? It is easy to vilify Judas, but at this point, he is at least at the table with Christ. Martha is so caught up serving, that she is not even engaged with Christ. In what areas of your life are you more a Martha than a Mary? Are there certain activities in which you get so caught up in the tasks that you can't be present for the activities? Share examples of everyday life, but also examples that tie directly into your faith and relationship with Christ.
4. Mary anointed Jesus' feet. As we saw in the Samuel text, being anointed has a tie to kingship. In a real way, Mary was proclaiming Jesus as her king. Now, Jesus is already King and does not need Mary's anointing, but there is a beauty in Mary anointing Jesus as HER king. What is an action or experience in your life where you recognized Jesus as King?
5. Read verses 7-8. We don't have Jesus with us in his bodily form, but through the power of the Holy Spirit we believe that Christ is with us. In this remaining time leading up to Easter, what is something you can do to help move you to the posture of Mary?