

Small Group Session 5 ~ Lazarus & Mary

Covering sermons of March 20 & 27

Ice breaker: What are the best ways you have seen people show thanksgiving or gratitude to yourself or to someone else?

1. Tell the story of John 11 & 12:1-11. Refer to your bibles for the important statements of Jesus, Mary, and Martha.
2. In John 11:21-24 and 11:32 Mary and Martha miss the present power of Jesus that Jesus has to raise Lazarus from the dead even though they both believe he has the power to heal. What made them miss that Jesus has resurrection power right now?
3. In what ways do we miss the present power of Jesus by assigning his work to eternity rather than to here and now? How have you been surprised by Jesus' present power?
4. John doesn't record any reaction of Martha or Mary until the dinner scene from John 12. If you were Mary, what might you have been thinking when you saw Lazarus walk out of the grave?
5. Use your imagination to live into the character of Lazarus. What do you think he experienced as he walked out of the grave? What was he thinking? Feeling? What might he have been thinking or feeling hosting the dinner for Jesus presented in chapter 12? What might have been his reaction to Mary's extravagant display?
6. It would be quite the bum deal to get called back from the dead and have people trying to kill you all over again. Write an epilogue to the story of Lazarus. Where was he on Good Friday? On Easter Sunday? Did the Jewish rulers succeed in killing him? What did he do with the remaining years of his life (if any)?
7. Mary's display of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume and wiping them with her hair was a gesture of deepest gratitude. Tell of a time you have been overwhelmed by gratitude. How did you show that gratitude? How do you wish you would have shown it?
8. We don't have Jesus physically present and cannot wash his feet or bring him a tray of cookies in gratitude. What does it mean in each person's life to show gratitude to Jesus?

"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!".-Pope John Paul II, *Angelus*, November 30, 1986.