*Home Group Notes* **One-to-one**

**John 12:1-11** Jesus and Judas

**Introduction**

1. Have you come across the term ‘virtue signalling’? What does it mean? Give an example

**Hear from God**

1. **Read John 11:55-57.** How does John draw our attention, in this passage, to Jesus’ impending death? How is the Passover linked to death and life for Christians?
2. **Read John 12:1-11.**  How does John draw our attention, in this passage, to Jesus’ impending death?
3. When is 6 days before Passover in our Easter calendar?
4. The dinner was a special one in honour of whom? And who was the person at table initially mentioned most by John?Why is this person’s presence a repeated important pointer to the main purpose of the passage?
5. Washing the feet of guests was usual, but what was unusual?
6. In which ways does the text emphasise the specialness of the perfume?
7. On what levels was Judas’ comment inappropriate?
8. Is Judas’ comment an example of virtue signalling? As he makes himself look good, who is he trying to make look bad? Why?
9. Jesus’ response is impressive in more than one way: He would have been well within his rights to stick up for himself, but he doesn’t. Who does Jesus stick up for and how?
10. Jesus gave a very striking meaning for Mary’s action with the perfume and in the same sentence he tackled the issue of providing for the poor. How good are his answers? What are his main points?
11. What different things were attracting the crowds in 9-11 which also wound up many Jewish leaders?

**Apply these things to your life**

1. When you need to talk about death, how helpful is it to have strong context of resurrection life?
2. Do you get embarrassed when one-to-one’s in front of others get a bit heated or personal or degrading? Do you stick up for others when they are being needlessly or unfairly picked on?
3. Are you positive or negative about extravagant gestures such as Mary’s expensive foot washing? Jesus feels they have a place but how big a place?
4. Is it fair to imply that Jesus didn’t help the poor? Did he? Did Judas help the poor? What was he known for doing?
5. Is virtue signalling like Judas’ a good thing? Do you know people who do it?......to boost themselves, or pull down others? Do you feel the urge to do it very often?
6. How different to virtue signalling is Jesus’ and John’s repeated signalling of Jesus’ coming death? Is cross-centred thinking the best antidote to virtue signalling?
7. The passage points to the cross in its context and in its conversation. How much do you point to Jesus and his cross in your deliberate actions and conversation? How could you?
8. Do you come across people who are easily wound up by the claims of Jesus or the faithful persistence of Christianity? How do you cope? What approach do you take?
9. As John’s gospel is written so that readers may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing have life in his name, does chapter 12:1-11 help in that aim?

***Prayer Points***

*Give thanks for Jesus’ brave and truthful approach in one-to-ones*

*Pray for those who are publicly shamed for no good reason, and for all of us to be wiser in our recognition of false accusation and true virtue*

*Pray for those preparing for confirmation on Sunday evening 12th May*

*Pray for our special Easter services, for readiness to invite, for willingness to come, for good Christian witness to the cross and resurrection of Jesus*