

Weekly Study Guide

The week of March 24, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 26:1-5	Tuesday	Matthew 26:1-13	Wednesday	Mark 14:1-9
Thursday	John 12:1-11	Friday	Matthew 19:16-30	Saturday	1 Samuel 10:1

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *He is Risen Indeed*

Next week's readings: Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8

Can you believe it? Really, can a thinking person believe that Jesus' tomb was really empty? What's the best explanation for what happened after the crucifixion of Jesus - and why does it matter? Join us next Sunday for the most important day of the year and to learn the truth about the most important claim ever made. He is risen. He is risen, indeed.



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Group Discussion

Connect	Who is the most polarizing person you can think of? Why do people have such strong reactions to them?
Learn	<p>Read Matthew 26:1-5 to get the context for today's story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How would you describe the meaning of this scene?• How do you think the disciples of Jesus would be feeling at this point? <p>Read Matthew 26:6-13. The woman in this story is a hero. She takes huge risks, and Jesus affirms her actions in the face of opposition from his own disciples. He says she has done a beautiful thing, or more literally: "a good work," just what Jesus said his true disciples would do (Matthew 5:16).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you think she saw that the other disciples didn't see?• Compare this story with Matthew 19:16-21. Jesus told the man in that story to give everything to the poor. Now Jesus affirmed this woman's actions over the objections of his disciples who were saying that very thing. If Jesus isn't just being inconsistent, what holds these things together? <p>Anointing could mean two different things in Jesus' world. Jesus mentions one of those things specifically: Her anointing of him was the anointing of a body for burial. Secondly, anointing is an act of royalty, particularly with perfumed oils. Kings were anointed this way. In this story Jesus is scandalously anointed by a woman in the home of a leper, while people in the halls of power (Matthew 26:3-5) are plotting to kill him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do you think people are prone to miss the kingship of Jesus?• Does the humility of Jesus' reign still cause people to miss it today?• If Jesus' kingship is exercised in laying down his life for others, can you think of instances of his reign happening among his followers still today?
Apply	<p>The disciples of Jesus understood the <i>program</i> of Jesus with their interest in the poor. This woman was devoted also to the person of Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does this story call you to any kind of response that increases your devotion to the person of Jesus?
Pray	<p>This week of the year leads up to Good Friday, to the commemoration of Jesus' death, before next week begins with Easter, the celebration of his resurrection. Pray for eyes to see the bewildering power of Jesus' death so that your hearts may be prepared to celebrate the resurrection.</p>