

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
Devoted or not ~ Matthew 26:1–13

What is the most beautiful thing someone has ever said to you or done for you? What made it so memorable?

Read Matthew 26:1–2

1. Since Jesus died on Friday, what day is he having this conversation with his disciples? If he knew it was going to happen, why doesn't he get out of Jerusalem?
2. What is 'the Passover'? If you have time, you may like to read Exodus 12:1-20. Why do you think Jesus' death coincides with this important memorial? How might the Passover help us to understand the death of Jesus?

Responses to the cross

Religious leaders – how can we kill him?

3. Read Matthew 26:3-5. What sort of people would you hope this group to be? What are they discussing? What is the irony of all their plotting and stealth?
4. Why do you think they so desperately want Jesus dead?

A woman – what can I give him?

5. Read Matthew 26:6-7. What do we know about the ointment this woman poured over Jesus? Why do you think she did this?
6. Why does Jesus describe this as a beautiful thing? What has she understood about Jesus?

[Side note – some of you may be thinking of other passages in the Bible like John 12:1-8 and Mark 14:3-9. These all refer to the same incident. However, Luke 7:36ff refers to a different incident altogether – it is at the home of Simon the Pharisee (not Simon the Leper and in Galilee which is a long way from Bethany in the South).]

The Disciples – what can I get out of him?

7. Do the disciples have the same insight and appreciation that the woman does? Jesus death is around 48 hours away. What are they concerned with?
8. Read Matthew 26:14-16. The chief priests wanted to arrest Jesus later. However, they got an offer that was too good to refuse – what was it? What did Judas want?

Responding to the cross

9. Read Revelation 5:9-14. What will we sing in glory? The woman's anointing of Jesus beautifully says 'you are worth it'. This vision of Jesus has inspired countless people across the centuries to live for the praise of his glory. Two questions to finish:
10. Is this how you see Jesus? Why / Why not?
11. How are you showing that you love and honour Jesus? (Remember Mat 25:34-40!)