

“She kneels at your feet again, pours out extravagant nard, scandalous anointing of your warm, living feet, unbinds her hair and lets it flow like water over them, wiping them in such reckless and tender thanksgiving.” **Mary, of Bethany – a poem by Andrea Skevington** (see below)

“What you give to Him and how much you give to Him and what you hold back are all measurements of the condition of your love for Him.” — **Eric Gilmour, Mary of Bethany.**

“I surrender all, I surrender all; All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.” **The well known hymn by Judson W. Van DeVenter**

### **ALL FOR JESUS** – week 6 – **Surrender.**

From the hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal written on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 1874:

*Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.*

*Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.*

**SONGS OF WORSHIP** – Songs like *Make room (This is my surrender)*, *When I survey* or *I Surrender (Vineyard)* will fit with the theme.

**BIBLE PASSAGES** referred to in the video:

**John 12:1–11, Luke 10:38-42** and **Eph 5:1-2**

**THEMES EXPLORED** this week:

3 particular stories are highlighted from the lives of Mary and Martha which give us a glimpse of Mary as a devoted, loving disciple of Jesus. In Luke 10:38-42, she sits at the feet of Jesus and is commended for what she has chosen. In John 12:1-11, there’s an extravagant act of love and devotion. This is the inspiration for the last verse in the hymn.

- I. Mary honours Jesus as King
- II. She brings her treasure
- III. She expresses love, devotion, commitment



### **HEADLINES FROM THE VIDEO**

Steve says, “She kneels to pour the perfume on His feet. It’s a posture of worship. She bows in the presence of her Lord. She doesn’t care what others think. Her focus is honouring and anointing Jesus... ministering to Him.”

“Lent is a season of taking stock often accompanied by times of prayer, fasting and study courses (like this) which enable a bit of soul-searching. But also, in Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus as we prepare for Holy Week and what Jesus does on Calvary. We commit ourselves to following Him and we consider his example - living a life of love...”

## IMAGINATIVE READING OF THE STORY

We would love you to try to enter this story more fully; to use your imagination, to picture yourself in the room when Mary comes and pours out the expensive perfume. Read and then sit with the scriptures and picture the scene. It's sometimes helpful to read the story a second time.

A question that is sometimes asked in Lectio Divina\* is the following:

*“What do I see, hear, smell, taste or sense as I picture the scene and still my heart?”*

Take time to share your insights and thoughts.

You might also like to read Andrea Skevington's poem which you will find here and below.

<https://andreaskevington.com/2016/05/25/the-mary-at-your-feet-poems-three/>

### USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY AND DRAW OUT THE THEME(S):

**John 12:1–11 and Eph 5:1-2**

Mary's offering...

- What do you think Mary was really doing in this scene? Is it *love, sorrow, honour...*?
- In what way does this story serve as an example or a challenge to you?
- Have you ever been prompted or convicted to give in an extravagant or outrageous way? (*this is not an opportunity to boast but to be vulnerable!*)

The words of Jesus...

- What do you think is meant when Jesus says *“It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.”*
- Are you shocked by what Jesus says about the poor – does this mean we can neglect the needs of others?
- What's the relationship between love and devotion *to Jesus* and care for others, especially *the 'poor'*?

This course...

- What has **encouraged** you or **challenged** you most in this course?
- What do you now understand by *“take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee”*
- Have you noticed anything changing within you?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL – some suggestions

Find a place to quietly pray, light a **scented candle**, replay the story and consider what you might offer to Jesus to express your **love and devotion** to Him.







Take time to consider how you will 'walk through' Holy Week and enter the passion story again.

## GROWING IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP - heart, head, hands and feet

The questions below help us to reflect on what we're taking away by way of *learning and encouragement...* and *challenge!*

It would be helpful to give group members a copy of this page 😊

Area of our discipleship	In words...	Key thought explored in this study	A question/questions to consider
	Loving Jesus	Mary gives something costly; she doesn't hold back; she 'abandons' her sense of reserve; she wipes the feet of Jesus with her hair.	How do I express my love to Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on a day to day basis?</li> <li>- in special moments or on special occasions?</li> </ul> Do I 'hold back'? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why might that be?</li> </ul>
	Learning from Jesus		
	Imitating Jesus	The ultimate act of 'surrender' is Jesus going to the cross.	How and where will you make time to dwell on what Jesus has done for us this Easter?
	Sharing Jesus	Mary's act of devotion was <b>public, extravagant</b> and even <b>shocking</b> to those who witnessed it.	In what visible, obvious ways could I <b>show or share</b> my love for Jesus with others? How might people know of my commitment to Him?

<https://andreaskevington.com/2016/05/25/the-mary-at-your-feet-poems-three/>

### Mary, of Bethany, at your feet a third time

*And so you come once more to Bethany,  
and share a meal with Lazarus,  
a resurrection feast,  
foreshadowing, foreshining  
all those kingdom feasts you told of:  
wedding banquets with long tables  
set wide with good things,  
with room enough for all,  
welcome at your table.*

*Now, in Bethany, the house is ablaze with light,  
shutters and doors thrown open,  
all wide open with joy unspeakable,  
music, laughter, dancing, wild thanksgiving  
for one who was dead is alive again,*

*And all night, while crowds pour in from Jerusalem,  
the feast goes on, and on,  
as Mary enters now, cheeks glistening with joy,  
past her brother at your side, back from the grave.*

*She kneels at your feet again,  
pours out extravagant nard,  
scandalous anointing of your warm, living feet,  
unbinds her hair and lets it flow like water  
over them, wiping them in such reckless  
and tender thanksgiving.*

*Fragrance fills the room, the house, the night,  
as more people pour from Jerusalem to you,  
to you, who comes to us in our weeping,  
who shares our bread with us,  
and brings us to such joy as this.*



## NOTES

\* *Lectio Divina*, which means "Divine Reading" in Latin, is a traditional monastic practice in Western Christianity that involves a structured method of *reading, meditation, and prayer* aimed at promoting deeper fellowship or 'communion' with God and deepening one's understanding of Scripture. The practice typically consists of a number of steps: *reading, meditation, contemplation, and prayer*. It encourages believers to reflect on specific biblical texts, fostering a deeper connection with God's word and encountering Jesus in new ways.