

Small Group Bible Study: Open-Handed Issues

Text: John 12:1–11

Main Idea: The Christian life is a costly life — one marked by open-handed worship and generosity.

1. Open Hands to Jesus

Mary's act of pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet showed that nothing was too costly for her worship. *What might it look like for you to hold your time, possessions, or talents more "open-handedly" before Jesus this week?*

2. Costly Worship

Mary's gift was criticized as wasteful, yet Jesus called it beautiful. *When have you felt challenged to give or serve in a way that didn't make practical sense but honored God?*

3. Letting Go of Control

The sermon contrasted a clenched hand (trying to steer) with an open one (allowing God to lead). *Where do you sense you've been trying to control outcomes instead of letting God lead — and what might it look like to release that?*

4. Open Hands Toward Others

Jesus' reminder about "always having the poor among you" pointed back to God's command to be openhanded and generous. *Who in your life might God be prompting you to help, encourage, or support right now?*

5. Generosity as Discipleship

The sermon said, "We can't follow Jesus and have our finances left unaffected." *What helps you see generosity not just as giving money, but as a reflection of trust, gratitude, and love for God?*

6. Following the Example of Jesus

Jesus became poor so that we might become rich in grace. His generosity shapes ours. *How does remembering what Jesus gave up for you change the way you approach giving, serving, or forgiving others?*