



Study Guide for August 15 2020 Sermon
"Mary of Bethany: Humility, Sacrifice, Adoration"

Texts: Luke 10:38-42, John 12:1-8

1. When you think of the term "worship" what comes to mind first?
2. What are the distractions you struggle with and how do you deal with them?
3. Reflect on some of the ways and means by which help you to focus in general and on the Lord in particular.
4. Consider Matthew's account of Mary's anointing of Jesus (Matt. 26:6-13), specifically as He declares, "Wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, *what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.*"
5. Explore these principles of biblical worship: Humility, Sacrifice, Adoration. How are they revealed in Mary of Bethany in those few accounts we have of her (Lk. 10:38-42, Jn. 12:1-8; see also Jn. 11:28-32)?
6. By nature, are you a "Martha" or a "Mary"? Discuss the pros and cons of being a "Martha."
7. Mary, seated at Jesus' feet and listening to His Word, was paying attention, attuned to His impending Passion, even as His disciples mostly missed it. Active listening is a vital spiritual discipline—assess your own personal practice of listening "to hear what the Spirit is saying."
8. Satan exploits our low attention spans and addictions to technology to distract us from hearing the Good Shepherd's voice. Would you concur that there is a major spiritual warfare component tied to becoming "listeners"?
9. During the sermon I shared a bit about my wilderness wanderings these past five years re the sin of presumption I needed to repent of. Can you relate?
10. This song, from that desert season, has become a distillation of what Mary of Bethany has taught: <https://incidentalmusic.ca/track/thank-me-later>