

Personified: Meeting Jesus on the Way to the Cross

Week 1 – February 14, 2021

Scripture: Mark 14:1-9; John 12:1-8; Luke 10:38-42

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Have you ever witnessed something so beautiful that it had a profound impact on you, but others were confused or even frustrated by it? (i.e. moved by beautiful worship, but another complained the music was too loud)

Read Mark 14:1-9, John 12:1-8 and Luke 10:38-42 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

In the weeks leading up to Easter, we are going on a journey and looking at seven very real and human moments of Jesus's life. So often, we emphasize the divinity of Jesus (i.e. Son of God, Messiah, Savior, Christ, Immanuel), but in this series, we are looking at the humanity of Jesus and how that relates with so many of our own experiences. Today we see how Jesus was moved by beauty.

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. No matter how chaotic or challenging life is, our hearts can be moved when we encounter beauty. Jesus was moved by beauty. We see it when Jesus visits Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42), and again when Jesus is anointed (Mark 14:1-9; John 12:1-8). Mary shows her total love and devotion to Jesus by anointing Him with something that was essentially her retirement plan. She gave away her financial security as an act of worship to Jesus; she gave her greatest gift to the only one worthy of such a sacrifice. This moment of extravagance moved the heart of Jesus deeply and He defended her action to those who were offended.
 - a. The disciples judge by appearances; Jesus judges by motive. Jesus looks at the love shown, not the human wisdom of our acts. How else do our standards differ from Jesus' standards?
 - b. Jesus *embraced* this beautiful moment. (Mark 14:1-3,6; John 12:1-3) How can we make space for our hearts to be moved by beauty?
 - c. Jesus *defended* this beautiful moment. (Mark 14:4-7; John 12:4-8) How can we affirm and defend those who move our hearts through beauty?
 - d. Jesus *elevated* this beautiful moment. (Mark 14:8-9) How can we elevate and recognize the beautiful moments that move us?
2. What is it about beautiful moments of generosity, creativity, sacrifice, and love that remind our hearts of deeper things?
3. God has placed something in all of our hearts to remind us there is more, yet, we can easily miss it. Read Ecclesiastes 3:10-11. What does this say about our heart's need for beauty?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that He places beautiful moments in our lives to remind our hearts of deeper things. Thank God that He himself is also moved by beautiful moments. Ask God to help us look around and see these moments. Praise Him that no matter how busy, chaotic or sad life may seem, there will always be beauty to move our hearts. We are grateful that the humanity of Jesus relates to our own experiences and from this we are able to grow deeper in our relationship with Him.