

TO GO

1. What's the most extravagant thing you've ever done for someone else? Why did you do it? What about the other person made you consider it to be worth your investment? In hindsight, was it?
2. Read John 11:55–57. Why did the Jews celebrate the Passover. Why is it fitting that this feast is the setting for Jesus' final week before his crucifixion?
3. Read John 12:1–8. Why is Mary's anointing of Jesus so remarkable? What antagonism is prompted by her action? How does the opposition she faced sometimes reflect our attitude towards extravagant devotion to Jesus?
4. Read John 12:12–19. How does the response of the crowds to Jesus differ from Mary's response? What were some of the crowd's misguided expectations? What is significant about Jesus' choice of a donkey rather than a warhorse? Read Zechariah 9:9–10. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?
5. Can you identify with the struggles of any of the major characters in that passage? How does our society sometimes try to suppress Jesus? How might people in the church or elsewhere try to exploit him? What is necessary to understand Jesus as he truly is versus what we might project him to be?
6. Read John 12:14–15. Take a few moments to thank Jesus for choosing to be the servant king and ask him to help you reflect his humility in all you say and do and think.