

## Study Notes based on Sunday morning 4 November 2018

### Mary of Bethany

1. Read Luke 10:38-42 – What do you think is happening in this story? Which one of the three characters do you think was being unreasonable? Why?
2. Reflect on this quote from Sunday am. ‘Listening to Jesus trumps acts of service which we begin to resent as we forget who we are serving?’
3. Mary and Martha only had Jesus with them for a short time. We believe Jesus is with us all the time. How do we ensure that we spend some time intentionally listening to Him in the midst of our 24/7 discipleship?
4. Read John 11:1-47. Why do you think Jesus delayed his arrival at Bethany or didn’t do a remote healing as he did on another occasion?
5. Both Martha and Mary express their frustration to Jesus: ‘if you had been here our brother would not have died.’ What do we learn from this and Jesus’ reaction to their complaint?
6. ‘Jesus wept’ – what does this teach us about Jesus? How may this help us in our darkest times?
7. See v46-47. Not everyone was impressed by the miracle. What does this teach us?
8. Read John 12:1-10 What do you think prompted Mary’s actions?
9. Reflect on Judas Iscariot’s objection. Do you think he might have had a point?
10. Reflect on Jesus’ response to Judas and his defence of Mary? To what extent do you think we should view these incidents in Luke 10 and John 12 in which Mary expresses lavish devotion to Jesus as specific to their timing, i.e. Jesus was present in the flesh, his crucifixion was approaching?
11. Mother Teresa would have argued that in serving the poor she was serving Jesus. How do we strike a balance between using money sacrificially given, to a church building project or staff appointment and the needs of the poor in our community and worldwide?

John S Smith 5 November 2018