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The Fragrance

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Bible Study

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Instructions

This study is designed to use questions and scriptures to enable believers to gain understanding of the topic. While it may be used for individual study, it is designed for a group setting. The Leader's Guide provides a group leader with additional information, scripture passages, and directional comments to enable and direct the discussion. The questions provided are designed to direct the discussion and enable participants to gain insight into the topic.

Group Leaders should read the summary and Leader's Guide prior to the meeting. It is also helpful if you read the scriptures and answer the questions in the Study Question section. The Study Question should be provided to participants in advance of the group meeting so that they have time to read the scriptures and answer the questions. During the group meeting follow the Leader's Guide, reading the scripture passages as they are presented, read or discuss the information presented. It is helpful to have members of the group read the scriptures out loud. Ask the questions in the order that they appear in the Leader's Guide. Keep in mind the recommended answer participants present their answers. Depending on the answers provided by the group, you may want to ask additional questions to help them see the recommend answer.

It should be noted that this and our other studies often reference scriptural symbolism. As with the parables that Jesus told, a scriptural symbolism represents a deeper truth found within a passage. In order for scriptural symbolism to be valid it must line up with scripture and be supported by scripture and conform to the character of God.

All scripture references found in this study are the King James version, unless otherwise noted. Do not use or allow the use of none scripture references during the discussion. In particular, so called lost books, the Apocrypha books or any other book or material not included in the Bible. While Apocrypha books are part of the Catholic bible, they are not included in the Protestant bible due to contradictions with other scriptures. If a scripture used by a group participant seems questionable, compare it to the King James and Amplified versions.

Also, in a group setting, do not allow anyone to dominate the discussion. If one member talks too much, it will hinder others. Don't allow group members to challenge directly the answers of other group members. Keep in mind that the answers presented in the Leader's Guide, are not the final or only acceptable answers. These answers serve as a guide to direct the discussion and impart insight.

If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary, scripture referenced in the Study Question section and then answer the questions. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Question section, then read the Leader's Guide and compare your answers to those in the Leader's Guide.

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About Us

South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.

Summary

There is a fragrance loved by the LORD. It unfortunately rare, but when it is released it captures His attention. We all have the ability to release it, but far too often we are ensnared by circumstances, busyness and even ministry. In this study you will learn the secret of releasing the fragrance and escaping the traps that would seek to hide it's value. You will also learn why that fragrance has great power.



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Leaders Guide

Luke 7:36

- 36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

John 12: 1-2

- 1 Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.
- 2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha were close friends of Jesus. They were not disciples, but believed in Him. Lazarus had died of a sickness and Jesus raised him from the dead. Lazarus had been in a tomb four days. Plenty of time for his body to begin decomposing. This was a significant miracle that caused many to believe in Him. It also caused the Priests and Pharisees to plan to kill Him. The fact that Jesus did many miracles and they could find no real fault in Him, did not cause most of them to believe. They were more concern about the Roman's taking away their position and their country.

The Pharisee that invited Martha was likely the husband of Martha, because she was serving at the supper. While scripture does not specify that he was Martha's husband, it is unlikely that she would be serving a man's home that was not her husband or related in some way.

Questions

- 1) Why do you suppose the Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner?
 - It appears that his wife was Martha, sister of Lazarus and a friend of Jesus. Someone that had visited her home before.
 - A) Did the Pharisee invite Jesus to dinner to honor Him or because he desired to learn from Him?
 - There is no indication that the Pharisee wanted to honor Jesus. It does not appear through the whole passage that the Pharisee had any kind of respect for Jesus as a teacher.
- 2) In John 12:2, what was Martha doing?
 - She was busy serving and working.

Luke 10:38-42

- 38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.
- 39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.
- 40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.
- 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:
- 42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.



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The event described in Luke 10 is a different event than the one described in Luke 7 and John 12. Martha invited Jesus into her home because she is a believer. Unlike the other event, this was not a formal dinner. Martha, as the good host, is busy serving her guest. Her actions were typical of a woman of the day, tending to the needs of her guest and serving them.

Questions

- 3) In Luke 10:38 through 42, what was Martha doing?
 - She was so consumed by the task of serving Jesus and her other guest that she spent no time in fellowship with Him.
- 4) What did Jesus mean when He said to Martha, "thou art careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful"?
 - Martha was too distracted by serving that she ignored what was more important at the moment.

In both events where Jesus was at her home she was busy serving. While it was her duty as the woman of the house at that time, she fails to take advantage of His presence in her home. Martha is a great example of diligence in service and the danger of allowing your works to rob you of quality time with God. It is easy to become so consumed by work or ministry that your time with talking with God and studying His Word gets pushed aside.

Revelation 2:1-7

- 1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
- 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
- 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
- 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The LORD chastised the Church of Ephesus because they had lost their passion for the LORD. They were busy with the work of the church, but allowed their relationship with God to take last place in their life. The work is important, but the relationship must take first place.

Question

- 5) How did Jesus rate what Martha's sister, Mary, chose to do?
 - He considered her choice of spending time at Jesus feet to be the better choice.
- A) Why did Jesus refer to Mary's choice as the "good part"?
 - She chose quality time with Him, instead of works.

To Mary, the opportunity to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear His words was the most important thing at the moment. Jesus did not put Martha down for the work that she was so diligently performing, He simply pointed out that in all of her busyness she was forgetting the most important part. Her work was important, but not as important as hearing what Jesus had to say or spending time with Him. He also did not chastise Mary for not helping her.



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Questions

- 6) What does Mary's actions tell you anything about her spiritual condition?
 - It speaks of her hunger for the Bread of Life, the Truth, Jesus Christ.

Luke 17:11-14

- 11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.
- 12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:
- 13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.
- 14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

A group of lepers, standing afar off, saw Jesus as He entered a village. Their actions declare that they knew of Him. While they remained at a distance because of their disease as the law demanded, they cried out for His help. Their cry spoke of their belief that Jesus could heal them. Their obedience declared their faith in His Words.

Questions

- 7) What was the response of the lepers when Jesus said, "Go show yourselves unto the priests"?
 - They immediately obeyed His command, through they had yet to see the evidence of their healing.
- 8) When did the lepers receive their healing?
 - After they acted according to His command.

It is an important point that it was only after they responded to His command that they were healed. He said nothing about them being healed on their way, just what they were to do. In fact, He did not mention their healing. His command indicated that they would be healed, otherwise, they had no reason to show themselves to the priests.

Our obedience and faith in God's Word is what activates the answer to our prayers. When God has declared something, the benefit comes through believing that He will do what He says He will do and acting upon it. The required action may not seem logical or significant, but that action holds the key to unlocking what you need or desire.

The symptoms of their sickness left was they departed to go to the priest. While the Word only speaks of one who noticed that he was healed, it is likely that all of them noticed.

Luke 17:15-19

- 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,
- 16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.
- 17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?
- 18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.
- 19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Question

- 9) Why did the one return?
 - The one noticed the miracle the Jesus did as he walked in obedience and that prompted him to return to offer the only thing that he had of real value, his praise and honor to God.



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The actions of the Samaritan was significant. Unlike the other lepers, he offered his worship of God for his healing. Dropping down on his face at the feet of Jesus, both an action of submission and worship, he glorified God for his healing. He was not asking for anything more, just wanted to give thanks for what he had received.

Question

- 10) What was the result of his glorifying God and showing his thankfulness for his healing?
- He was made whole, having no signs of leprosy. Nothing missing or lacking in his body. He received total restoration and freedom from the effects of the disease upon his body. The others were only cleansed of their leprosy, they still retained the scars of the disease.

{**Note:** The word “whole” in verse 19, is the Greek word, Sozo, which means to heal, to restore to health, to deliver from penalty. }

The Samaritan’s worship and expression of thankfulness brought a complete healing. All the damage done by the leprosy was fully restored. The other nine lepers retained the scars of the disease because they did not glorified God who healed them.

Question

- 11) Why was it notable that the one who returned to glorify God for healing him was a Samaritan?
- Samaritans did not follow the ways of the Jews, many worshiped false gods.

Luke 7:36 - 38

- 36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.
- 37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,
- 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

John 12: 2-3

- 2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.
- 3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

The event of Mary, the sister of Lazarus, tearfully washing Jesus’ feet and anointing Him with a costly ointment is a profound example of pure worship. Mary was a known sinner. She was someone well known in that area as a sinful woman. Yet she performed an exceptional humble act of worship.

Questions

- 12) Why did she wash his feet with tears and wipe them with her hair, kissing His feet in the process?
- Her tears came from a thankful and contrite heart. Her position at His feet was one of submission.
- 13) What type of container did the woman break to pour the spikenard on Jesus?
- An alabaster box.



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{ **Note:** Alabaster is white, translucent stone, often used for hand carved vessels and figurines. An alabaster box in the time of Christ would have been extremely valuable. }

The fact that she broke open a sealed alabaster box containing precious and expensive ointment was in itself an offering unto the LORD. She anointed Jesus with something of great value. Spikenard is also a spice that was used in the preparation of a body for burial.

While Mary was still a significant sinner at the time, she was still directed by God to bring with her the alabaster box of ointment and her pouring it over Jesus. Her actions made a significant prophetic statement.

Questions

- 14) Symbolically, what did the alabaster box represent?
 - A once hard heart, broken before the LORD in an act of pure worship. Abandonment to worship - freely poured out.
- 15) Did the fragrance that filled the room from the ointment represent anything, symbolically?
 - Mary's act of worship was both a physical and a spiritual expression. Each action expressed her humble and pure love for the LORD. It was a declaration of her worship of Christ and a God directed preparation for His burial.

Luke 7:39 - 43

- 39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.
- 40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.
- 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.
- 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?
- 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Simon, the Pharisee saw only Mary, a sinful woman. A woman who is also his sister-in-law. To the Pharisee, even having her in his presence was an affront. In his eyes she was unclean. In his eyes no Godly man would allow her to touch him. Unlike Simon, Jesus saw the humble heart and act of worship. Her past sins were just that, in the past.

Jesus' parable of the two debtors described the condition of Simon and Mary. While Simon was not a sinful man, at least in terms of the law. Mary, according to both Simon and Jesus, was a very sinful woman. Simon could not understand the Grace in which Jesus functioned. He only saw the law. He lacked any kind of deep love for the LORD. He had a religion, but no real love for God.



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Luke 7:44 - 50

- 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.
- 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.
- 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.
- 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.
- 48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.
- 49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?
- 50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

The tradition of the time was to have a servant or family member wash the feet of a guest, in particular, a well known guest. The host would give the invited guest a kiss on the cheek and anoint their head with oil. Jesus was in many way a celebrity in that time. Multitudes came from afar to hear Him speak and to have Him heal their diseases. In every sense of the word, He was a guest that should have been honored. Simon choose to do none of these traditional tributes. His actions were a deliberate insult. It was not an oversight. It was a purposed statement of disrespect. In contrast, Mary's humble actions greatly honored Jesus and expressed her love for Him.

Mary received forgiveness of her sins because of her faith in Jesus. Her actions declared her love and thankfulness.

Keep in mind that Mary and Martha are the sisters of Lazarus, who Jesus raised from the dead after he was in the tomb for four days. Lazarus and his sisters were friends of Jesus. They were people that He spent time with when He was in the area. Up to the time that she honored Jesus at the dinner, remained a sinful woman. She left that evening a forgiven woman.

Mary and the Samaritan discussed in this study are examples of pure worship. Both worshiped Jesus for what He had done. Mary, in particular, expressed her worship in a very personal and humble way, giving something of great value in the process.

Martha, also a friend of Jesus, was busy serving both times expressed in the Word. She was one consumed by her work and failed to attend to the more important things, such as spending time with Jesus.

Simon, the Pharisee, the husband of Martha, had a religion and lack any love or respect for Jesus. Religion without relationship blinds you to what is important.

Question

- 16) Are you a Martha or a Mary, a Simon?
- A) Do you have a religion or a relationship?



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Study Questions

Answer the following questions, using scripture to support your answers where appropriate. The goal is to gain understanding, not to adhere to short, pat answers. Don't limit yourself to the space on the page between questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet if necessary. Do not include answers based on the books that are not part of the Bible. The opinions of man and blending the works of man, in particular false books, will hinder your walk and understanding.

Read

Luke 7:36-50

Luke 10:38-42

John 12: 1-8

Revelation 2:1-7

Questions

- 1) Why do you suppose the Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner?
 - A) Did the Pharisee invite Jesus to dinner to honor Him or because he desired to learn from Him?
- 2) In John 12:2, what was Martha doing?
- 3) In Luke 10:38 through 42, what was Martha doing?
- 4) What did Jesus mean when He said to Martha, "thou art careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful"?
- 5) How did Jesus rate what Martha's sister, Mary, chose to do?
 - A) Why did Jesus refer to Mary's choice as the "good part"?
- 6) What does Mary's actions tell you anything about her spiritual condition?
- 7) What was the response of the lepers when Jesus said, "Go show yourselves unto the priests"?
- 8) When did the lepers receive their healing?
- 9) Why did the one return?



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- 10) What was the result of his glorifying God and showing his thankfulness for his healing?
- 11) Why was it notable that the one who returned to glorify God for healing him was a Samaritan?
- 12) Why did she wash his feet with tears and wipe them with her hair, kissing His feet in the process?
- 13) What type of container did the woman break to pour the spikenard on Jesus?
- 14) Symbolically, what did the alabaster box represent?
- 15) Did the fragrance that filled the room from the ointment represent anything, symbolically?
- 16) Are you a Martha or a Mary, a Simon?
 - A) Do you have a religion or a relationship?