

LESSON 12
A GREAT VALUE
MATTHEW 26:1—27:14



1 What objects of value do you see around you?

2 What object has the least value?

3 How do people decide what is valuable to them and what isn't?



Read Matthew 26:1—27:14, Lazarus's sister Mary's Profile, and the following notes:

☐ 26:6–13 ☐ 26:7 ☐ 26:8 ☐ 26:11 ☐ 26:14, 15 ☐ 26:15 ☐ 26:35
☐ 26:48 ☐ 26:56 ☐ 26:69ff ☐ 26:72–74 ☐ 27:5

4 What was important to Lazarus's sister Mary (26:6–13)?

5 What was important to Judas (26:14–16, 20–25, 47–50)?

6 What was important to Peter (26:31–54, 69–75)?

7 How do our values affect the way we live?



Mary, Judas, and Peter were all disciples of Jesus. Yet from their actions, we can tell that each had different values. Mary valued Jesus above all else, so she thought nothing of using expensive perfume to honor him. Judas loved money, so he thought nothing of betraying the Son of God to a band of murderers. And Peter, otherwise loyal, cared very much about his reputation, which caused him to deny his association with Jesus when pressed to identify with him. Their experience is just like ours. From time to time we will be forced to choose between God and things or God and our reputation. We will hold on to the one we value most and sacrifice the other. Mary's example is the one we should follow.

8 Why is it difficult to let go of our possessions and reputation to serve God?

9 Why does God deserve to be valued above all else?



10 What objects of value do people commonly hold on to?

11 In what way do you place a higher value on things and reputation than on God . . .

at home? _____

at work? _____

at church? _____

in your private life? _____

12 What stands between you and true devotion to Christ?



13 What can you do this week to demonstrate your devotion to God?

14 What will help you remember to cling to God above all else each day?

A What motivated Judas to betray Jesus (26:14–16)? What weakness tends to drag you down? What can you do to compensate for or overcome this weakness?

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B Where does the practice of celebrating Communion come from (26:26–29)? What should a Christian do to prepare for Communion? How can you celebrate Communion so that it affects your daily life?

C What failure did Peter think he would avoid (26:31–35)? What does this tell us about our own weaknesses? How can we lean on God's grace in times of weakness?

D How does the experience of prayer between Jesus and the disciples in the garden compare to your own practice of prayer (26:36–46)?

E Why did Jesus not defend himself at his various trials (26:62, 63; 27:12–14)? In what way did his deeds speak for him? In what situations should you let your deeds speak for you?