

# Driftless Reflections with Pastor Dave

## Bible Study

### Living with Integrity...Losing My Religion

September 25, 2020 | John 12:1-8

#### Welcome

Do your actions match your words? Most of the time, it feels fairly easy for us to live as people of integrity. We believe in certain things, therefore behave in certain ways and say certain things.

Our life actions match our words...or do they?

As Christians, it's easy to have a "religious" outside...to put on the right show, to make it look like we've got it all together, to put on the appearance of faith...but what really matters is on the inside—a life rich in relationship with Christ.

Prayer...

Father, you created us to live as people of integrity, however we have failed. Forgive us. Help us to dig deep within ourselves and reveal areas of our lives where we need the light of Jesus Christ to shine brightly. Convict us and help us to obediently embrace your ways of living with integrity. Thank you for your grace and love along the discipleship journey. Amen.

#### Into the word

**John 12:1-3 NLT** Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with Him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

In this amazing account, Mary anoints Jesus in an unusual way. Normally, anointing oil is put on a person's head; however, Mary pours the oil on Jesus' feet.

•*What do you think this signifies?*

Mary also wipes his feet with her hair. She surely knew that a respectable woman did not let her hair down in public.

•*What might she be trying to communicate through this unusual anointing?*

Soon Jesus will be arrested and led to the cross to die.

•*How might this anointing be preparation for his death?*

**John 12:4-8 NLT** But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup> "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." <sup>6</sup> Not

that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. 7 Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for My burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me."

Judas Iscariot objects to this anointing. He views this action as wasteful.

- Why do you think Judas reacted the way he did?*

Certainly, the emotions of Judas were on full alert. A betrayal was in the making, yet the story hadn't fully played out quite yet.

- What might have been some of the emotions going on within Judas?*

- Why was he wrestling with all of these emotions?*

Take time this week to ponder and reflect on separating ourselves from the "religious"—institutional practices that are empty of connection to God and embracing the integrity of life with Christ.

- How might you spend time this week reflecting on the status of your spiritual integrity?*

- Why do you think it is so easy to get caught up in the "religious"?*

Why are we so easily distracted from relationship with Christ for those things that tend to fill our time but not our hearts?

### **Living it out.**

Integrity is sometimes a hard road for us to follow. It means being transparent and real. It means living a life that is put up to the light and truth is revealed. It means saying what you think and living what you say.

- How have you grown in your integrity in recent years?*

- In what areas of your life do you need to grow integrity?*

- What steps might be necessary to grow and are you willing to pay the price?*

### **Prayer...**

Lord Jesus Christ, you demonstrated a life of integrity. You came into this world as a humble child, lived your life as a humble servant, and went to the cross in humble obedience. Teach us to live this kind of humility. Show us how to live transparent lives. Convict our hearts in areas where we still need to grow as people of integrity. Thank you for your grace and mercy as we strive to walk ever deeper in discipleship of Jesus Christ. In your holy name,

Amen