



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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John 12:1-11 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#)

are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why do you think Mary felt motivated to anoint Jesus’ feet?

She probably felt sincere appreciation for the fact that Jesus had raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead, for Martha, Mary, and Lazarus loved Jesus and He loved them. On a deeper level, the Holy Spirit would have moved Mary to do this specific task for Jesus.

2. What reason did Jesus give to explain why Mary anointed His feet?

He said that she bought it so she might keep it for the day of His burial. She would save what she did not use that night for Jesus' burial.

3. Who complained about Mary's actions? What reason did he give for complaining about her good deed?

Judas Iscariot complained saying the perfume could be sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor.

4. What did John say about the one who complained?

John explained that Judas was about to betray Jesus and that he did not care for the poor. He complained because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.

5. Why did the chief priests plan to put Lazarus to death?

A great crowd of Jews went to Bethany to see Jesus and Lazarus, who Jesus had raised from the dead. And on account of Lazarus many of the Jews were deserting and believing in Jesus.

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