

Session 4: The First Dinner – Costly Worship



Putting Yourself in the Picture

This artwork, displayed in the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, captures the poignancy of the anointment at Bethany. Each of the gospels tell the story with different settings and participants.

Read Mark 14:3-9 and John 12:1-8

Note the differing details in each account. Which are most striking to you?

How does that change your understanding of the event?

What is the significance of anointing of the head? Of the feet?

Who objects to the anointment? What are the reasons? What does this say about their values?

How do you interpret Jesus' response about 'the poor'? What does Jesus expect from his disciples?

As one of those sitting at table, how would you react to a woman preparing Jesus for burial?