## ANOINTED FOR BURIAL

Mike Howerton - Lead Pastor

It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. "But not during the Passover celebration," they agreed, "or the people may riot." Mark 14:1,2 NLT

Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head. Mark 14:3 NLT

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. Psalm 133:2 NIV

Some of those at the table were indignant. "Why waste such expensive perfume?" they asked. "It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money given to the poor!" So they scolded her harshly. Mark 14:4,5 NLT

But Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. Mark 14:6,7a NLT

But you will not always have me. She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed." Mark 14:7b-9 NLT

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## QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS //

- Read the story of Jesus being anointed at Bethany in Mark 14:1-11.
- Who's someone you're thankful for who impacted your life?
- OCC values Outlandish Love. What's this mean to you?
- How's Mary's act of worship challenging you to worship Jesus this week?
- Is there anything or an area of life you sense you've withheld from Jesus?
- How are you going to prepare yourself for Easter?