

Series: The King and the Kingdom

Title: Kingdom Conflict - Part 3

Date: March 17/18, 2018

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Big Idea: On one of the final days before his trial and crucifixion, Jesus shares a meal with some of his closest friends. The dinner party becomes an occasion for Jesus to illustrate one of the deepest truths about God: God can take what is ugly and broken, and turn it into something beautiful.

Passage: Matthew 26:1-13

Discuss It:

1. Imagine you have up to a million dollars to spend on a gift for someone you love. What would you buy, and for whom?
2. **Read Matthew 26:1-5.** Jesus has mentioned before that his life would end in suffering and death, yet the disciples always seem unable to hear it. It seems that a common human tendency is to filter out the things we don't want to hear in order to leave our preconceived notions intact. Where do you see people doing this today? More importantly, where might *you* be willfully ignorant of truth that could threaten the way you see the world or live your life?
3. **Read Matthew 26:6-16.** This gathering happens in the home of a man called "Simon the Leper." The fact that Simon is living and eating with others means that he has been healed of leprosy for some time, yet he still lives with the label from his past. What labels, stigmas, or negative identity-markers have followed you from your past even though you've tried to leave them behind?
4. The disciples called the woman's display of affection wasteful and destructive, yet Jesus calls it beautiful. In his message this past weekend, Phil challenged us to ask ourselves, "*How many times have I called something destructive that God has called beautiful?*" Are you able to think of any examples?
5. Some opportunities only come once in a lifetime and if we lose that opportunity to do something lovely, it is missed forever. Have you ever had a golden opportunity to do something kind or lovely, but missed it because you were too practical?
6. Like this woman, it is a wonderful thing to be able to leave the memory of a lovely deed. Who have you known personally who left a legacy of generosity? Are you leaving memories of kind and loving deeds you have done? If so, how? If not, what's standing in the way?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?