

- The choices we make are **heart** decisions.

And so the Lord says, “These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote. Ezekiel 29:13

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. 2 A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. 3 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. John 12:1-3

What Worship is:

- Expression of **gratitude**.

If we **withhold** what our heart longs to give, in time our heart will no longer **want** to give it.

Extravagant worship brings us to the place where we care so much that we could actually **care less**.

What we find in those who have experienced new life:

- New Life always produces **grateful worship**.

47 “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” Luke 7:47

- Worship is a **heart response**, not a public performance.

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24

“The house was filled with the fragrance.” John 12:3b

- Extravagant worship will **cost** you something.

“I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing.” 2 Samuel 24:24

“Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii...?” John 12:5

- Not everyone will understand your **heart**.

“Why was this ointment not sold... and given to the poor?” John 12:5

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

- Jesus receives and **defends** our worship.

“Leave her alone.” John 12:7

- New Life produces either worship or **resistance**.

“A large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there... and the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many were going away and believing in Jesus.” John 12:9–11

Action Steps:

- Remember your **resurrection**.
- Give Jesus the **first** and the **best**.
- Worship without needing **approval**.

VISION:

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

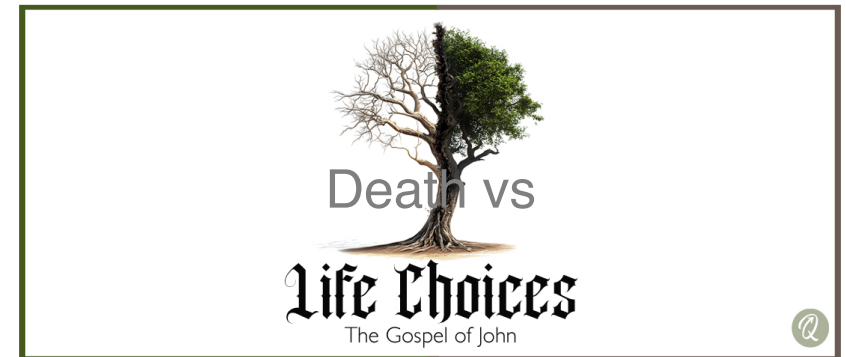
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Looking back on the sermon, what line, phrase, or moment stayed with you the most—and why do you think it hit you?
- The sermon says our daily choices are “heart decisions.” What are some choices you’re currently making that are either drawing your heart closer to Jesus—or slowly pulling it away?
- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus all respond differently to Jesus. Which of them do you resonate with most right now—and why?
- Sitting at the table (Lazarus), Serving actively (Martha), Pouring out extravagantly (Mary)
- The sermon asked, “Have you forgotten what He saved you from?” What helps you personally remember your spiritual resurrection—and what tends to make you forget?
- We heard that worship is a heart response, not a public performance. How do you personally distinguish between worship that’s sincere and worship that’s more habitual or routine?
- Mary’s worship was costly—emotionally, socially, and financially. What might “costly worship” look like in your life right now? What feels hardest to surrender?
- Judas criticized Mary’s worship, and Jesus defended it. Have you ever felt misunderstood or judged for your faith or devotion to Jesus? How did that affect you?
- The sermon said new life produces either worship or resistance. Where do you sense yourself leaning right now—and what might God be inviting you to release or trust?
- Lazarus didn’t preach—he was simply alive, and that pointed people to Jesus. What might it look like for your everyday life to quietly point others toward Christ?
- Of the three action steps—remember your resurrection, give Jesus the first and best, worship without needing approval—which one feels most important for you this week, and what’s one practical way you’ll live it out?

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**Our necessary response
to New Life.**

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