

Blood and Thunder

Thunderstruck

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." John 12:1-8 NKJV

"She has done what she could. . . ."
Mark 14:8 NKJV

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." John 9:4 NKJV

"Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her." Matthew 26:13 NKJV

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Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever received an overwhelmingly lavish gift? What was that like?
- What has really stayed with you from this message?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read John 12:1-8. Who do you most easily identify with in this story?
- What, specifically, do you think keeps you from being more generous with what you have?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you ever given what felt like more than you could give? Share a story. What happened?
- Pastor Levi said, "The only way to keep anything is to give it away." What does this mean to you?
- Mary gave while she could. What could you be giving to God and others now?
- Have you ever experienced God in a way that astonished you? What happened?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, everything we have is from You. Thank You. You've been so generous with us. We want to be like Mary who gave what she could, while she could. Show us what we can return to You in worship. We love You. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Do something surprisingly generous this week without telling anyone about it.
- If you're not giving financially back to God regularly, consider taking the three-month tithe challenge: www.go2.lc/tithe
- Seek God's astonishing power and presence this week in worship, prayer, and everywhere you go.