



## John 11:45-12:11 Small Group Discussion Questions

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- Have someone read John 11:45-57. Why does John tell us about this plot to kill Jesus?
  - Why do you think that some people went to tell the Pharisees what happened?
  - Why would the resurrection of Lazarus make the Pharisees so mad?
  - Wesley noted that the Pharisees do not deny that these miracles happened. How could they still hate Jesus if they believed the miracles were real?
- Wesley said that the reason the Pharisees were so opposed to Jesus was their selfishness; He threatened their plan and position in society. How does self-centeredness set people against Jesus?
  - In what ways can selfishness and self-centeredness manifest in disobedience? How can they lead us to stray from Jesus?
  - When have you seen selfishness lead you from God?
  - Sometimes our selfishness can be so ingrained in our hearts that it's hard to spot it; how do you remain vigilant for self-centered tendencies in your life? How do we seek out and find selfishness in our heart?
- Caiaphas then steps in. What is Caiaphas saying to the counsel on the surface? What does John tell us he's actually saying?

- Why do you think John includes this short story about Caiaphas?
- How does Caiaphas' plot and plan reveal the sovereignty of God? What does this tell us about God's power and authority?
- Wesley mentioned that God's sovereignty is operative even in broken situations. When have you seen this to be the case?
- Why do we need Jesus to be our substitute? In what ways is He our substitute when we place our trust in Him?
- Have someone read John 12:1-11. Why do you think Mary anointed Jesus like this? What emotions are motivating her?
- If the Pharisees show that opposition is the wrong response to Jesus, how does Mary show the right response?
  - Wesley said that in contrast to the selfishness of the Pharisees, Mary displays total humility. How do we see her humility in this passage?
    - Why is humility to be a mark of the believer?
    - What is humility, do you think? How would you define it?
    - How does the love of God lead to humility?
    - How can we practice humility this week in our lives?
  - Why do you think Judas is so bothered by Mary's humility here?
    - Wesley said that other people's love for God can expose our own lack, and that may be why Judas gets so upset. When has someone else's love for God challenged you to love God more?
    - Why might the initial response to such a challenge be irritation, like Judas, instead of a humble willingness to press into God more?
  - Wesley also said that humility before God leads to affection for God. How do we see that in this passage? How are humility and affection for God related?

- What does it mean for our hearts to feel affection for Jesus?  
How do we engage our emotions in our love of God?
- Wesley said that Mary's disposition is completely sacrificial. How do we see Mary's sacrificial attitude here?
  - What does sacrifice for Jesus reveal about the heart?
  - What might sacrifice look like for us? How can we tell whether our hearts have an attitude of adoring sacrifice, like Mary, or prideful cynicism, like Judas?
  - How does Judas' heart contrast with Mary's? What does Judas think is wrong with Mary's sacrifice? How does Jesus respond?
  - How can our sacrifice for Jesus hurt our reputation? What is the response to this possibility?
- How does Mary's anointing of Jesus foreshadow Jesus' death and resurrection?