



Small Group Questions: Marked by Risk

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Read

Mark 14: 1-10 and 14:50

Reflect

In Mark 14: 1-10, a woman shows her devotion to Jesus by pouring perfume of great value on His head. Some of the people present—specifically Judas Iscariot (mentioned by name in John 12:4-5)—criticize her for “wasting” the perfume that cost the equivalent of a year’s salary, and could’ve been sold to support the needs of the poor. The woman (Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha [see John 12:3]) did it as an act of unselfish devotion. For Jesus, she was willing to risk financial security in service to her Lord and accept the criticism of others. Are you such a risk-taker?

Pastor Josh Surratt gives us three things we can learn about taking risks:

1. If I’m truly going to walk by faith, it’s going to involve risk.
 - a. Think of three people (besides Mary) in the Bible who took great risks for their faith.
 - b. Whose story do you find the most moving and inspiring? Why?
 - c. What risks have you taken for your faith?
 - d. “Risky” is person-specific: how might you finish “I would not want to risk _____.”
 - e. As you’ve taken risks of faith, did God’s path seem impractical, at first? In what ways?
 - f. What have been the results of your greatest steps of faith? How have they caused your faith to grow?
2. Taking spiritual risks will often invite criticism, even from other believers.
 - a. Have you ever been around someone whose faith was so bold that it made you uncomfortable? Why?
 - b. Can you think of a time when you were critical of someone’s steps of faith?
 - i. Can you pinpoint perhaps why? Did it bring up an unresolved issue inside you, or did you lack knowledge of some important facts?
 - c. Have you ever taken some heat for your faith? How so?
 - d. Have there been times when you let critics keep you from pursuing what God wanted you to do? What tends to hold you back the most?
3. When you do what you can by faith, you will be remembered.
 - a. What kind of risk is God calling you to take?
 - i. Is it for the courage to embark on a new endeavor, business or organization? To go on a mission trip or serve in the church? Or maybe to forgive someone who has hurt you, or to confess a painful sin?
 - b. How are you responding to God’s call in your life?
 - c. Are you prepared to go all-in with God? If not now, then when?

What if you did all that you could with everything you had?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?