

- Reactions are often an indicator of something deeper
- Reactions reveal what we try to conceal
- Reactions are fueled by assumptions we believe about ourselves and others
- Reactions are fueled by our belief systems

*Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

*But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

*"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."*

*Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.*

**John 12:1-11 (NIV)**

Other accounts of this story: Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 7

1. SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE: REFUSE TO STAY STUCK IN YOUR OWN PERSPECTIVE
2. BREAKTHROUGH COSTS YOU SOMETHING & GIVES YOU EVERYTHING: TAKING A STEP CLOSER TO GOD IS OFTEN COSTLY
3. IT'S OKAY TO BE SKEPTICAL, JUST DON'T STAY THERE

*When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."*

*Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."*

*"Tell me, teacher," he said.*

*"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"*

*Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."*

*"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.*

*Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."*

*Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."*

*The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"*

*Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

**Luke 7:39-50 (NIV)**