



## Part 1: Comma, Not a Period

April 6 & 7, 2019

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### Table for Five JOHN 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

<sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, <sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, <sup>11</sup> for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

### The Dinner Guests

*Mary* Buried in responsibility and honor

*Martha* Buried in busyness and service

*Lazarus* Actually buried in death

*Judas* Buried in greed, theft and judgment

*Jesus* Buried in preparation and mission

### Thoughts

Jesus will have dinner with anyone

Jesus made space for the devoted, the betrayer, the in-process and the restored

Jesus was intentional in his invitation because of his mission

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:  
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,  
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day  
according to the Scriptures...

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

**At a dinner party, Jesus told his friends that he was  
going to change a period to a comma.**

*Where in your life have you placed a period  
where God would put a comma?*

## **Next Steps**

- **EASTER INVITATIONS**

Who in your life would appreciate an “invitation to the table” of Easter? Prayerfully consider who you could invite, then pick up a printed invitation for each person God brings to mind. Be sure to make the invitation in person!

- **EASTER SEASON VOLUNTEERING**

This is the final week to volunteer for a variety of roles at the Good Friday and Easter services. Use the form in today’s program and drop it in the offering or at the Connection Point today. Thanks in advance for helping create a great experience for all our guests!

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) If you could invite anyone in history over for dinner, who would you invite and why?
- 2) Are you buried in or under anything right now? What is it?
- 3) Read John 12:1-11 out loud. Who do you most relate to at the dinner party? Why do you sense that connection?
- 4) Who can you intentionally make space for this week? How will you intentionally bring Jesus into that space?
- 5) How did you answer the final question above about period vs. comma?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?