



GUIA DE ESTUDO

The evidence of our faith

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New Hope Fulton · doxus.org

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Evidence of Faith in Motion

The preacher opens with a simple but strong claim: faith is not meant to stay parked. Using his overlanding story, he describes months of researching gear, maps, routes, and off-road parts with his brother before finally turning the key and driving. The trip only became real when the evidence in the garage turned into action on the road. That image sets up the sermon's central theme: belief matters, but belief must become something tangible—service, love, and witness—if it is truly alive.

LEITURA BÍBLICA – JOHN 12

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

From Belief to Action

He contrasts two ways of living: collecting evidence and living it out. In his words, the world is often “information rich, but sometimes action poor.” The sermon argues that the book of John contains a subplot showing what happens when people move beyond observing Jesus to serving like Jesus. Mary's act in Bethany and Jesus' foot washing in John 13 are presented as connected scenes that reveal the same truth: faith becomes visible when it is poured out for others.



It takes evidence to believe, but it takes action to live it out.

— A line to remember

PARA REFLEXÃO

Discussion: What does your life leave behind?

1. In the overlanding story, what was the difference between having a good plan and actually taking the trip?
2. Why does the preacher say that the church can become “parked” in the driveway of preparation?
3. What makes Mary's act in Bethany more than an emotional moment?
4. How does Judas' response reveal a heart focused on value and control rather than sacrifice?
5. What do Mary's perfume and Jesus' foot washing teach about love in community?

REFLEXÃO

Personal Examination

Think about where you may be more comfortable collecting information than practicing obedience. Are there areas where you have researched, discussed, or admired faith, but not yet served? The preacher wants listeners to notice whether their lives are marked by evidence that can be seen and smelled, like the fragrance in the house, or by safe observation from a distance.

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Leave evidence where you live

The sermon points to concrete practices at New Hope as examples of faith in motion: preparing dinners for Grassroots, packing tens of thousands of meals for No Child Hunger, and helping grow fresh food through Garden of Hope. The call is

not abstract. Like Mary pouring out a year's wages and Jesus kneeling with a towel and basin, believers are invited to do costly, visible acts of service that make God's love tangible in the community.



When we stop observing and start serving, we change the atmosphere of the room.

— On the atmosphere of the room

Mary's costly love

He emphasizes the cost of Mary's perfume: a pound of pure nard, a family's savings, a year's wages, something around 300 denarii. In the ancient setting he described—dusty roads, sandals, sweaty feet, and the lowly job of foot washing—Mary's action was extravagant and unexpected. She did not wait for a servant. She stepped in and served Jesus herself. The sermon treats this as the clearest picture of love translated into action: she had seen enough evidence to believe, and her belief moved her to give everything.



What if the world doesn't need more evidence for faith, but real tangible evidence of faith in motion.

— The heart of the sermon

PARA REFLEXÃO

Seeing and serving

1. Why do you think the preacher spent so much time describing the cultural setting of the dinner and foot washing?
2. What does Mary's willingness to pour out her expensive perfume teach about availability and sacrifice?
3. How does the fragrance image help explain what love looks like in a community?
4. In what ways can good intentions become a substitute for actual service?

REFLEXÃO

Where is your faith still parked?

Ask yourself whether your faith has remained in a "parked phase" like the preacher's overlanding research. Have you been planning, learning, and preparing without turning that faith into action? Consider whether your belief in Jesus is producing service, generosity, and a willingness to take the lowest place for the good of others.

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Follow Jesus with a towel and basin

Jesus' actions in John 13 show that discipleship includes humble service. The preacher says Jesus did not just give the disciples information; he gave them mission. Follow that pattern by looking for ordinary ways to wash feet today: serving at church, helping at meal-packing events, welcoming first-time guests, or meeting needs without expecting recognition. The goal is to make the love of Christ visible and felt.

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A prayer to live it out

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us that faith is not only something we believe, but something we live. Help us move from observing to serving, from collecting information to becoming living evidence of your love. Give us Mary's generosity, Jesus' humility, and a willingness to pour out what we have for others. Make our lives leave a fragrance of love, service, and witness in our community. Amen.



Jesus didn't just give the disciples information. He gave them mission.

— On mission, not just information

The first communion as a lived symbol

He connects Mary's act in Bethany with Jesus washing the disciples' feet before the Passover meal. In both scenes, the point is not ritual for its own sake, but a shared life of service. He says the first communion was where belief met action, where the visible signs of bread and juice pointed to Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and called the disciples to respond with lives that bless others. The message is that worship is incomplete if it does not become service.

PARA REFLEXÃO**Witnessing through action**

1. How does the sermon connect communion, sacrifice, and service?
2. What does it mean for a community to become known as a "positive fragrance" in a county or city?
3. How might your church make faith more tangible to neighbors who may never read John's Gospel?
4. What would it look like for your home, workplace, or small group to "leave evidence behind"?