



Developed for the  
Synod of Alberta  
and the Territories  
and adapted for the  
Learning-Leadership  
Development  
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# *Council Devotions*

## *Wisdom or Common Sense?*

### **Read John 12: 3-8**

‘Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?’ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’

### **Ponder:** [In pairs or in groups of 3, discuss what you hear from the reading.]

When were you most extravagant? [What was your motivation?]

Does your church get your ‘left-overs’ and ‘hand-me-downs’?

How do we determine the ‘wise use of resources’?

### **Summarize:** [Hear from the other groups.]

### **Pray:**

‘**P**’ – **praise** the qualities of Christ.

[You may include wisdom, compassion, love ...]

‘**R**’ – **remember** the things God has given you.

[ Riches, extravagance, wisdom and common sense ... ]

‘**A**’ – **ask** for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your deliberations.

[Include those items under consideration at this meeting.]

‘**Y**’ – **yield** to God’s will.

[Not my will, but yours be done.]

This devotional outline is intended to help you create your own opening devotion for your council meeting. The focus is on some aspect of leadership. It should promote discussion about Jesus and how he worked with his followers. Devotions in this style encourage council members to share their thinking about the role of leadership. This is a guide only and should be adapted to the time available and to your group. This opening devotion may take 5 – 10 minutes to conduct, but it will take a little preparation on your part. Themes might be: priorities, motivation for service, what is important vs what is immediate, wise investments.