

The Worth of Jesus

John 12:1-8, with Matthew 26:7-16, Mark 14:3-11

(Joh 11:1) Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

(Joh 11:2) It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.

MARY ANNOINTS JESUS, HEAD AND FOOT

(Joh 12:1) Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

(Mar 14:3) And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper [(Joh 12:2) (*they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table*)]

, as he was reclining at table, a woman [John 12:3 (*Mary*)] came [Mat 26:7 (*up to him*)] with an alabaster flask of [John 12:3 (*a pound of*)] [Mat 26:7 (*very expensive*)] ointment [John 12:3 (*made from*)] pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head [Mat 26:7 (*on his head as he reclined at table*)], [John 12:3 (*and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*)]

A GENERAL SCOLDING for BAD VALUE

(Mat 26:8) And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, [Mar 14:4 (*There were some who said to themselves indignantly*)], "Why this waste? [Mark 14:4 (*"Why was the ointment wasted like that?"*)]

(Mat 26:9) For this could have been sold for a large sum [Mar 14:5 (*more than three hundred denarii*)] and given to the poor." [Mar 14:5 (*And they scolded her.*)]

(Joh 12:4) But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, (Joh 12:5) "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

(Joh 12:6) He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

JESUS RESPONDS

[Mat 26:10 (*But Jesus, aware of this*)] (Mar 14:6) ... said, "Leave her alone [Joh 12:7 (*so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.*)]. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing [for] me.

[Mat 26:10 (*"Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing [for] me.*)]

(Mar 14:7) For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. [(Mat 26:11) (Joh 12:8)]

(Mar 14:8) She has done what she could; [Mat 26:12 (*In pouring this ointment on my body*)] she has anointed my body beforehand [Mat 26:12 (*to prepare me*)]for burial.

(Mat 26:13) Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her." [Mark 14:9]

JUDAS RESOLVES TO BETRAY JESUS

(Mat 26:14) Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them [Mar 14:10]

(Mat 26:15) and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" [Mar 14:11 (*And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money*)] And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.

(Mat 26:16) And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.