

Jesus Anointed at Bethany (Matthew 26:6-13, John 12:1-8)

⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. ⁸ When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. ⁹ "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." ¹⁰ Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³ I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper,

- While Jesus was in **Bethany (not too far from Jerusalem)**
- While Jesus was in Bethany (see John 12:1a) **(six days before the Passover / Fri. or Sat. before)**
- in the home of a man known as **Simon the Leper (probably had been healed by Jesus; a friend of Jesus; showing his gratitude)**
- **in the home of** a man known as Simon the Leper (see John 12:1b,2) **(hosted by Mar, Martha, and Lazarus)**

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- **a woman** came to him (see John 12:3) **(Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus)**
- with **an alabaster jar** of very expensive perfume **(translucent, whitish gypsum)**
- with an alabaster jar **of very expensive perfume (a pound of nard)**
- with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume **(probably was going to anoint Lazarus' body with it)**
- which she poured on his head **as he was reclining at the table (how Jews ate)**
- **which she poured on his head** as he was reclining at the table (see John 12:3) **(includes whole body – a way of showing gratitude and love)**

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

- When **the disciples** saw this (see John 12:4) **(in particular, Judas)**
- they were **indignant (feeling or expressing anger esp. at unjust action)**

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- "Why this **waste?**" they asked (**Greek = destruction**)
- "This perfume could have been sold **at a high price...**" (see John 12:5) (**a year's wage**)
- "...and the money given to the poor." (see John 12:6) (**Judas covering his greed with nice sounding words**)

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me.

- **Aware of this**, Jesus said to them (**don't press omniscience here – he heard their words**)
- "Why are you **bothering** this woman?" (Greek) (**furnishing burdens – Jesus stands p for Mary and not himself**)
- "She has done **a beautiful thing** to me." (**anointed his body**)

The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me.

- The poor you will always have with you... (Greek) (**Greek construction 'chiasm' is emphatic**)
- The poor you will always have with you (Greek) (**word 'because' is left untranslated – giving reason why it was a beautiful thing**)
- The poor you will always have with you (see Deuteronomy 15:11)
- but you will not always have me (**his physical presence would soon be gone**)

When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.

- she did it to prepare me for burial (**either Jesus sees a deeper meaning OR Mary understood Jesus' predictions and knew he was about to die**)

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- I tell you the truth (**verity, authority, pay attention!**)
- wherever **this gospel is preached throughout the world (gospel will be preached to the whole world)**
- what she has done will also be told (**along with the gospel – wherever it goes this goes**)
- in memory of her (**it's still being fulfilled after two millennia!!**)

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ 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. ⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ 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. ⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."