

## **Mary and the Gospel**

John 12:1-11

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### **John 12**

1 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.

8 "For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,

11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

(NKJV)

### **Matthew 26**

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper,

7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table.

8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?"

9 "For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor."

10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.

11 "For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.

12 "For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.

13 "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

(NKJV)

### **Mark 14**

1 After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death.

2 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people."

3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.

4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted?

5 "For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply.

6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me.

7 "For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.

8 "She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.

9 "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

(NKJV)

## **Portraits of People At the Feast**

### **Martha**

Her love language seems to be acts of service. At the feast she is responding to an opportunity of being near the Lord by doing what she does best: helping serve tables. From this place of service she can hear most of what He says and she can observe Him as He interacts with people around Him.

### **Lazarus**

His relationship to Jesus has gone from being friends to “raised from the dead by Jesus”. He is now spending time with Jesus again for the first time since the resurrection, fellowshiping with Him, providing conversation and friendship while sorting out the implications of who Jesus actually was and what a proper response to Jesus looks like.

### **Judas**

A man in conflict; should he betray Jesus for personal gain- the money, or be faithful to Jesus? Meanwhile he is at the feast where he must keep up his image as a disciple. He has learned the talk, even while he is wavering in his walk, so he speaks of a concern for the poor.

### **Simon the Leper**

His first encounter with Jesus was most likely when he was healed from leprosy. Now he is demonstrating his gratitude by hosting Jesus and his disciples.

### **Bystanders**

Standing as close to the gate as possible and gazing across the courtyard.  
“Dude! Can you see that man? That is Jesus! He raised Lazarus- the man sitting there in the corner- from the dead! Like, totally amazing!”

### **Mary**

She has been close to Jesus for a long time. He has spent a lot of time at her house. Most recently he raised her brother Lazarus from the dead. Her understanding of who He is, is growing. Her gratitude and love overflow in this moment. She goes to her own house and brings her most valuable possession and breaks it open, anointing Jesus in an intimate way- letting her hair down- completely disregarding dignity, she gives her all to Christ. She is not considering the future, she is giving everything right now.

## **What This Woman Has Done**

Publicly, shamelessly, identifying with Jesus Christ. Expressing the depth of her gratitude by giving her most treasured possession to adorn the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **This Gospel**

The next six days in the life of Jesus. His death, burial, and resurrection.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 NKJV)

## Which Portrait is to Be Shared With the Whole World?

Not service,  
    hospitality,  
        or fellowship,  
but the one that speaks of surrender and giving one's all.

This Gospel and this principle of surrender to Jesus Christ is one of the deepest parts of our faith. **This is something that we are willing to die for.**

### Ephesians 2

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,  
2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,  
3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.  
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,  
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),  
6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.  
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.  
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.  
11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--  
12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.  
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.  
14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,  
15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,  
16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.  
17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.  
18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.  
19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,  
20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,  
21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,  
22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.  
(NKJV)