

TITLE AND NUMBER: 74. Jesus anointed at Bethany



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 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. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." (v1-5)

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." (v7-8)

LOOKING FURTHER: John 11: 17-44 John 13:1-17 John 3:16

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany to a warm welcome and a dinner given in His honour by His friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary.

The preceding chapter, John 11, describes the illness and death of Lazarus. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. His sisters Martha and Mary together with many others realised that Jesus was the anointed one, the Son of God. By raising Lazarus, Jesus was in great danger and the authorities wanted to arrest Him.

Mary rubbed pure nard, a very expensive perfume, on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair, filling the house with fragrance. Mary was preparing Jesus for His death and burial. This was an act of generosity and devotion. Mary's action was echoed when Jesus washed His disciples' feet before the Last Supper. Mary and Jesus show us how we are to love God by loving one another.

Judas objected to what he saw as extravagant waste. He had not understood that Jesus would die very soon and that Judas himself would betray Him.

Jesus defended Mary in the face of this protest. She alone had understood that He would soon be killed and had given the most valuable thing she had to honour Him.

Reflections:

- Mary and Martha realised that Jesus is the Son of God and responded to Him with generosity and devotion. How can we show our devotion to God?
- How do we show this generosity to others?
- If you want to know more about this, please ask one of the Chaplains.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

