

Lent – Jesus anointed by Mary, John 12 v 1-11

Background: this happened a week before Jesus was crucified. Jesus had recently raised Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus' sisters were called Martha and Mary.



Read John 12 v 1-11

Why do you think Mary did this?

What do Mary's actions tell us about who or what was really important to her?

Judas didn't understand, or share, Mary's devotion to Jesus. How did he interpret her actions?

How did Jesus interpret Mary's actions?

What was soon going to happen to Jesus? (v7)

Why? (see 1 Corinthians 15 v 3)

'There was a hit out on Jesus... He knew this was the last week of His life. He knew He was heading to the cross. He knew He would be betrayed by His own friends, arrested, tried, mocked, beaten and crucified. If ever there was a time for Him not to be in Jerusalem, it was now. He could have got away. But He didn't. He wanted to get to the cross, not because He wanted to suffer for suffering's sake but because He wanted to go through all that suffering for your sake and mine. He wanted to die for us, to pay for our sins, because He loves us so much.'*

'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.' (1 John 3 v 16)

We have seen that Mary showed extravagant love for Jesus in her actions during the meal. How did Jesus show His extravagant love for us?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that, in your extravagant love for us, you gave your life to pay for our sins, meaning that we can be forgiven when we repent and believe in you. Please help me to trust your words and understand that you did this for me. Amen.

If you have a Bible, why not look up the verses yourself instead of just reading them here. I've printed them here for people who don't have a Bible!

John 12 v 1-11

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. 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."

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

*Taken from *The Promised Saviour*, Pegler 2021, p10-11.