

## ***Bible Reading: John 12:1-8***

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

## ***Bible Reading: Mark 14:3-9***

"While He was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on His head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'"

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Days before Jesus' death, Mary, Lazarus' sister, anointed Jesus' head with an expensive jar of perfume. And she didn't hesitate - she kept pouring until the entire bottle was empty. While her act shocked onlookers, here's why it was significant:

### **Mary's act revealed Jesus' purpose.**

Throughout Scripture, when God chose a king, that person was publicly anointed with oil to show that they were set apart by God. Anointing was so important that the prophesied Savior of the Jewish people was referred to as the Messiah (in Hebrew) or the Christ (in Greek) - terms that mean "Anointed One."

By anointing Jesus days before He died and rose again, Mary was preparing Him for His burial and proclaiming that He was set apart by God to rescue the world.

### **Mary's act showed her devotion to Jesus and submission to His authority.**

Imagine standing before Jesus and giving Him your salary for the entire year. When you do that, you're not just handing Him your money - you're giving Him your future, your dreams, and your security. This is what Mary did when she poured her bottle of perfume on Jesus.

Pouring it out would have cost her financially, jeopardized her reputation, and impacted her future security.

But nothing else mattered to Mary except Jesus.

She had seen His glory, and it compelled her to bow at His feet and give Him everything she had.

Mary's radical devotion to Jesus mirrored Jesus' radical devotion to His Father.

Because God loved us, Jesus gave up everything to rescue us. And just like Mary's expensive perfume was poured out on Him, Jesus' blood was given up for us. This is something Jesus did without hesitation or regret. He willingly gave up His own life so that we could be anointed by the Anointed One.