

“Anointing the Feet of Jesus”

Read John 12:1-8

¹Six days before the Passover, Jesus came again to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ²So, they made Him a supper there.

Martha was serving and Lazarus was among those reclining at table with Him. ³But Mary their sister took a pound of very costly perfume of pure spikenard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair, and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, then said, ⁵“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to the poor?” ⁶Now he said this, not because he loved the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he held the money box, he used to pilfer what was being put into it.

⁷Therefore, Jesus answered and said, “Leave her alone. For the day of my burial, she has kept this. ⁸The poor you always have with you. Me you do not always have.”

Discussion Questions

1. Spikenard: What made this a gift fit for a dowry, or for a king? How would Mary have come to possess such an expensive item?
2. As Jesus gathered for a fellowship meal with Martha, Lazarus, and Mary, how did the three of them show us actions, symbolically, that we are to emulate in our relationship with Jesus? Mary was ‘following in the footsteps’ of what Old Testament worshipper? Why should Mary’s action, symbolically represented, be our primary goal?
3. Did Mary know what she was doing in anointing him for his future suffering, death, and burial? What fragrance would now go with Jesus through it all?
4. How did Satan, through Judas, try to bring accusation, and derail Mary’s intimate devotion? Who defended her action?

5. The dowry meant for Mary's future husband would now be for her spiritual Bridegroom Jesus. By entering into His suffering and broken heart, she pours herself out, symbolically making her vow. How can we likewise worship Him? What is the spikenard that you have been given, that you can 'pour out' for Jesus?

6. Read Romans 8:15-17.

"¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received has brought about your adoption as his children, and by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷And if we are children, then we are heirs; heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings, in order that we may also share in his glory."

God gives us, as believers in Jesus, the power and motivation we need, enabling us to carve out focused time with God. "Where are you at" with this, and how can you better prioritize this into your busy life-schedule?

Finish by listening to this song and allowing yourself to worship your King!

[Pour My Love On You - Phillips Craig & Dean](#)