

# MONDAY, APRIL 10

Mark 14:3-9  
Pastor Steve

We kick off this passion week by reading a beautiful story in Mark 14 of Jesus being anointed by a woman with pure nard (perfume). There are several characters in this story that we want to focus on today.

First, it takes place at Simon the Leper's home. Before we glance over this detail, let's pause and let this sink in. Jesus is at a leper's home. We know that people avoided lepers at all costs. There was the fear of contracting the disease and also some believed that this was a manifestation or punishment of some kind of sin. Jesus and his disciples were dining at Simon's house. The person that men shunned had now become the man that Jesus eats with. This says a great deal about how Jesus views people.

Secondly, we encounter the woman who breaks open the alabaster flask and dumps all the perfume on Jesus. We know from the other gospels that this woman is Martha, the sister of Mary. From the context, we see that this pure nard that is mentioned is worth a year's wage. We have to ask ourselves, would we do this? Could we do this? Our initial common sense sides more with Judas than Martha. Why the waste? How was she able to do this? Jesus tells us that she has anointed his body for the burial to come (v. 8). She did this because she grasped who Jesus was and what He was going to do. She valued Christ. The more we know Jesus, the more we will treasure Him. For Martha, giving her life for the Lamb of God was an easy decision.

Thirdly, we see Judas. He only valued Jesus because he saw him as being useful. Judas only saw what Jesus could do for him. Unfortunately, there are many today in the Church who seek God

only to utilize Him. True worship of God is never to gain something from Him but simply because of who He is.

1. Read Mark 14:3-9.
2. What emotions do you think Simon must have felt having Jesus in His home?
3. What is your “alabaster flask”?
4. Do you truly treasure Jesus or do you simply want to use Him?
5. Read this story at least a dozen times. Pray for God to increase your understanding of Jesus today.