

PRECIOUS ARE THE FEET OF JESUS

John 12:1-8 *Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. ³ Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. ⁴ But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, ⁵ "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for ²three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. ⁷ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. ⁸ For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."*

The Town of Bethany:

- The town's location was about 2 miles outside of Jerusalem.
- This was the home of Lazarus and where he was raised from the dead.
- This is where Jesus retreated to on many occasions for friendship, fellowship and for prayer.
- This is where the Mount of Olives is located, just on the outskirts of Bethany.
- This was the home of Simon the Leper who Jesus healed from leprosy sickness.

Lazarus, Martha, Mary, & Friends Prepare a Meal for Jesus:

- This could possibly be Lazarus' personal home, though the text doesn't say.
- Martha appears to be doing the primary work of preparing and serving the meal for Jesus and His disciples, and the other guests.
- All of those close to Jesus have a little bit of understanding that Jesus may not be with them much longer. These are probably Jesus' closes friends gathering with Him before He meets privately with His Disciples for Passover Week in the 'Upper Room' (**John 13-17**).

Mary's Precious Oil Offering:

- This is the precious moment of encounter when Mary anointed Jesus' feet with costly perfumed oil.
- Spikenard oil was a very costly and precious gift reserved for Kings and dignitaries and was many times an investment or an inheritance given to someone as a tangible form of wealth. Whenever this perfumed oil was used for practical reasons, it was applied to the head of others, often kings and dignitaries.
- Mary has been following Jesus now for many months. She has been sitting at His feet (**Lk. 10:38-42**) learning and growing in love and agreeing with His plans to bring restoration to all things. She recognized Jesus as the "resurrection and the life" for her brother Lazarus (**Jn. 11:32**).
- Now in this moment, Mary has determined to take her most precious gift as an extension of her wealth and future and give it as an offering of worship to Jesus.
- Mary must have also had insight into the purpose of Jesus coming not just to preach the message of the Kingdom of Heaven but also as the sinless Lamb of God to be slain for the salvation of all of humanity. She had much to be thankful for.

- Did Mary see Jesus as the “King of Kings” as why she was willing to pour her costly oil on Him?
- Our oil is an outward expression of our inward life. Oil represents what we produce from our personal labor and history of making decisions to follow Jesus in loving obedience. Mary determined to pour her life, inheritance, wealth, and heart on the feet of Jesus because His feet are the ones who bring good news.
- Olive Oil is a representation of our loving history with Holy Spirit. Oil can also be a sign of our inner life of faith in following Jesus in love.
- Our personal testimony of Jesus is only as bright as our present interactions of love and fellowship with Him.
- Just as olive oil is produced from the growing, harvesting, and pressing of the olive, so too our lives receive costly oil through faithful obedience to Jesus over time, pressure, endurance, etc. Our history of love with Jesus becomes the most valuable offering of gratitude we give back to Him. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!
- **John 12:3** “...And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”
 - True and sincere worship to Jesus fills a room. Everyone must acknowledge this offering.

Anointing Jesus’s Feet:

- For Mary to apply this oil onto Jesus’ feet was seen and understood as a waste as feet were normally dirty and the dirtiest part of a person’s body. There was nothing “practical” but there was much “prophetic” about this anointing of Jesus’ feet.
- Mary must have gained insight and revelation to Jesus as the Suffering Servant and Eternal King.
- This description that Mary “anointed Jesus’ feet” is really a key into who she saw Him to be.
- But, why the feet??? How precious are the feet of those who bring good news. Every Messenger who brings good news is welcomed. They are often celebrated. Good news refreshes the soul. How much more Jesus who has brought the greatest news and continues to deliver His Good News to all of humanity. Sin is killing the human experience. The law and requirements of God were given to deliver the diagnosis as to why human suffering. But only in faith in Jesus is there a remedy for this sin-curse of humanity. This is GREAT NEWS.
 - **Prov. 15:30** *A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health. (NLT)*
- *“Jesus Christ is God’s anointed Messiah. The word Messiah means “anointed one” and derives directly from the Hebrew word for “anointed.” Christ comes from the Greek word Christos, also meaning “anointed one.” Thus, Christ is the Greek equivalent to Messiah. When Jesus receives the Holy Spirit at His baptism, He is “anointed” by God in preparation for His life’s work (Luke 3:22; cf. Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18). On three separate occasions, Jesus is anointed with fragrant ointment in His work as the Savior, the King of heaven who was in preparation to die to save His people.” (www.gotquestions.org)*
 - **Isa. 52:7** *“What a beautiful sight to behold— the precious feet of the messenger coming over the mountains to announce good news! He comes to refresh us with wonderful news, announcing salvation to Zion and saying, “Your Mighty God reigns!”” (TPT)*
 - **Zechariah 14:4** *“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making*

a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."

Judas Iscariot Becomes Indignant:

- We see Judas' hidden greed and worldly motives in this story. We can also understand that Judas probably was focused on being on Jesus' ministry team for his own personal gain.
- Judas in this occasion can also be a representation of those who attempt to deter genuine followers and worshippers of Jesus from being extravagant in serving and worshipping Him.
- How has Jesus forgiven, healed, and blessed you? What kind of worship do you bring to His feet?
- Mary was a woman. Mary often received pressure from her sister to help serve the guests. Mary was undeterred by anything or anyone. What cultural restraints attempt to stop your extravagant worship to Jesus.
- Why don't we see Lazarus responding in a similar way to Jesus after just having been raised from the dead? What about Martha? What about the other Disciples?

Let Her Alone:

- Jesus speaks up on behalf of Mary's response of this extravagant worship.
- Jesus is also giving us an insight to what He truly values and what He truly desires from those who follow Him as His Disciples.
- There is another occasion of someone responding in indignation to someone's extravagant worship. Michal becomes indignant to King David's lavish and whole-hearted worship to God. David is so grateful for the mercy of God that He can't stop worshipping Him along with the other Priests carrying the ark into Jerusalem.
 - **2 Sam. 6:20-23** *Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"* ²¹ *So David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the Lord."* ²² *And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."* ²³ *Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.*
- There will always be more human need, suffering, and work to do in this life. How will we respond when Jesus enters into the room? Will we be ready to offer Him an offering of extravagant worship.
- Worship and prayer is not to be seen as our work but our invitation to meet with Jesus.
- **John 12:7** *But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial."*
 - This process of burial was normally done AFTER the death of a person. They took precious spices and oils and used them to embalm the bodies before placing them into the burial site. Mary is doing this BEFORE His death. Wow!
 - Jesus' body smelled like Mary's precious fragrant oil as He hung on the cross.

- Could it be that our response in extravagant worship to Jesus is pouring forth oil to anoint Him for His second coming? The fragrance is filling the earth for His worthy reception back to the earth.
- Just in the days of old of the temple, the curtain between the people of worship and the Holy of Holies of God's glory will be ripped open. The separation between the two will be removed. Jesus will return and we will be with Him forever. **THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS WE PREACH & BELIEVE!**