



### FOCUS VERSE

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment (JOHN 12:3).

### LESSON TEXTS

1. MATTHEW 26:6-16
2. MARK 14:3-11
3. JOHN 12:1-9

### TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Yahweh values our worship!

### TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will worship Yahweh wholeheartedly!

## THE CONTEXT:

### BEFORE:

1. THE SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY IN THE TOWNS OF GALILEE!
2. THE CONFESSION OF JESUS AS THE CHRIST AND THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI!
3. THE REVELATION OF THE SUFFERING AND CRUCIFIXION OF THE MESSIAH!
4. THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST ON MT. HERMON!
5. THE DESCENT FROM MT. HERMON TO JERUSALEM!
6. THE REVELATION OF THE MESSIAH'S ASCENDING TO HEAVEN, RECEIVING HIS KINGDOM, AND HIS RETURNING TO EARTH WHILE LEAVING JERICHO!
7. THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD AT BETHANY!

### AFTER:

1. THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM!
2. THE PAROUSIA DISCOURSE ON MT. OLIVE!
3. THE PASSOVER AND THE LORD'S SUPPER IN JERUSALEM!
4. THE CRUCIFIXION ON THE HILL OF GOLGOTHA!
5. THE BURIAL IN THE TOMB OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA!
6. THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD AFTER THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS LATER!
7. THE ASCENSION TO HEAVEN FROM MT. OLIVE 40 DAYS LATER!

## THE TEXT:

### THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the Leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. <sup>8</sup> But when His Disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." <sup>10</sup> But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. <sup>11</sup> For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do

not have always. <sup>12</sup>For in pouring this fragrant oil on My Body, she did it for My Burial.<sup>13</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a Memorial to her." <sup>14</sup>Then one of the Twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the Chief Priests <sup>15</sup>and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>So from that time he sought opportunity to **betray** Him (**MATTHEW 26:6-16, NKJV**).

### **THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the Leper, as He sat at the table, **a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.** <sup>4</sup> But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? <sup>5</sup>For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they **criticized** her sharply. <sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, "**Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me.** <sup>7</sup>For you **have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.** <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to **anoint My Body for Burial.** <sup>9</sup>Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a Memorial to her." <sup>10</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the Chief Priests to **betray** Him to them. <sup>11</sup> And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently **betray** Him (**MARK 14:3-11, NKJV**).

### **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup> **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.** <sup>4</sup> But one of His

Disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would **betray** Him, said,<sup>5</sup> "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> But Jesus said, "**Let her alone; she has kept this for the Day of My Burial.**"<sup>8</sup> **For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.**" Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.<sup>10</sup> But the Chief Priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also,<sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus (JOHN 12:1-9, NKJV).

- Memorial- something that keeps remembrance alive!
- Betray- to deliver to an enemy by treachery.
- **Spikenard**, also called **nard**, **nardin**, and **muskroot**, is a class of aromatic amber-colored **essential oil** derived from **Nardostachys jatamansi**, a **flowering plant** in the **honeysuckle** family which grows in the **Himalayas** of **Nepal**, **China**, and **India**. The oil has been used over centuries as a **perfume**, a **traditional medicine**, or in religious ceremonies across a wide territory from India to Europe.
- A denarius is a day's wage for a laborer. Taking away the Sabbaths and other special feast days, 300 denarii would be about a year's income.
- Criticize-to consider the merits and demerits of and judge accordingly, to find fault with, or to point out the faults of.

### **QUESTIONS TO PONDER:**

- If Jesus was a "wanted" man and showed up at your door, how would you react?  
How do you think Lazarus, Martha, and Mary felt when Jesus arrived?
- How can you know if Jesus is truly the center of your universe?
- Is it easier to sing songs and give money to God or to live a holy life of non-conformity to the world? What role does each of these play in true worship?
- What influence, positive or negative, do other people in the church have on your

worship?

- In what area of your life could you increase your level of worship to Jesus?

### PRAYER FOCUS

- For Yahweh to give us hearts of worship, giving our entire life to Him!
- For Yahweh to help us overcome insecurity or negative peer pressure that sometimes discourages us from worshipping!