

## 37--Anointing Jesus

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 11:55-12:8

1. We need the gospel of John to help us put these events in context. According to John 11:55-12:1 what feast was drawing near? What significant miracle had just recently occurred in John 11? What plots were circulating about Jesus?

2. Six days prior to Passover Jesus went to a home in Bethany. Whose home was it and what is said about him (Matthew 26:6)? Who was there (John 12:2-4)? How far was Bethany from Jerusalem?

3. What does Mary do with the *“alabaster flask of very costly spikenard”* (Matthew 26:7; Mark 14:3)? What is “spikenard?”



4. How did some of the disciples feel about the use of this spikenard (Matthew 26:8-9; Mark 14:4-5; John 12:4-5)?

5. What was the valuation of the oil, according to the disciples (Mark 14:5; John 12:5)? How might this value compare to today's monetary values?

6. Does Jesus deserve to be honored in the cheapest way possible or does this passage teach He deserves to be honored generously? What kind of mindset do you have in your giving of your time, treasures, and talents to the Lord's church and His work?

7. How did Jesus feel about the negative comments His disciples, specifically Judas, had been making about this woman's generous gift and why (Matthew 26:10; Mark 14:6-7)?

8. Jesus only had seven days before He would hang upon the cross. What comfort would this anointing have been to Jesus and how would it also have been a comfort to Mary?

9. What does Jesus say this act would become for all the world (Matthew 26:13; Mark 14:9)?

10. Jesus says of this woman's touching tribute "she has done what she could" (Mark 14:8). This woman's great gift could not stop the death of Jesus. Yet, based on this comment, does Jesus expect us to single-handedly change the evil of the world? How is it a comforting thought to know we will be judged individually rather than based on the deeds of a group (cp. 2 Corinthians 5:10)?