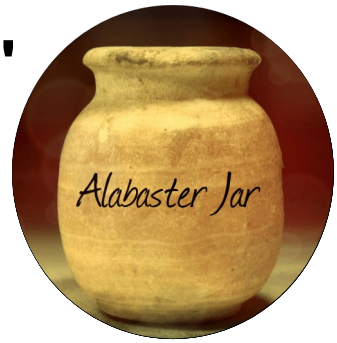
"Mary's Gift to Jesus Christ"



John 12:1-8
5-4-2025

INTRODUCTION:

***What will you do for Jesus?**

Seven features of Mary's good work for Jesus Christ:

I. **Mary expressed great <u>THANKFULNESS</u>**
when she gave her gift to Jesus

II. **Mary Made a Great <u>SACRIFICE</u>**
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.3a)

III. **Mary Showed Great <u>HUMILITY</u> and <u>AFFECTION</u>**
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.3b)

IV. **Mary Overcame Great <u>OBSTACLES</u>**
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.4-7a)

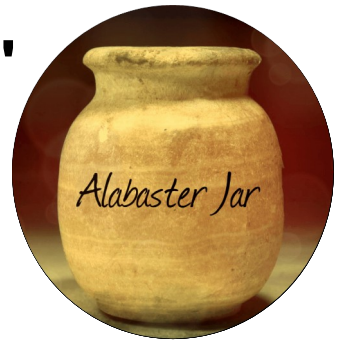
V. **Mary Revealed Great <u>FAITH</u>**
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.7b)

VI. **Mary had Great <u>PRIORITIES</u>**
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.8)

VII. **Mary Left a Great <u>MEMORY</u>**
when she gave her gift to Jesus (Mark 14:9)

"Mary's Gift to Jesus Christ"

John 12:1-8
5-4-2025



INTRODUCTION:

***What will you do for Jesus?**

Seven features of Mary's good work for Jesus Christ:

I. Mary expressed great _____
when she gave her gift to Jesus

II. Mary Made a Great _____
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.3a)

III. Mary Showed Great _____ and _____
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.3b)

IV. Mary Overcame Great _____
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.4-7a)

V. Mary Revealed Great _____
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.7b)

VI. Mary had Great _____
when she gave her gift to Jesus (v.8)

VII. Mary Left a Great _____
when she gave her gift to Jesus (Mark 14:9)

"Mary's Gift to Jesus Christ"

John 12:1-8
5-4-2025

INTRODUCTION:

This account of Mary's anointing is so significant that it is found in Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9 and here in John 12.

v.1 - "to Bethany" - In the same town of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead (Jn. 11).

Jesus arrives in Bethany 6 Days prior to Passover, but the special dinner and anointing would take place 4 days later; Just 2 days before the Passover (cp. Mark 14:1).

Matthew 26:6 gives us the detail that Jesus was ***"In the house of Simon the leper"*** A man who no doubt was cured from leprosy by Christ. In the house was a former leper! Plus a former dead man raised to life!

v.2 - "Lazarus" - sat at the table while his sister Martha served the food. Martha has a servant's heart and Mary the worshipper's heart. Both are important; but of the two, worship would take first place priority.

v.3 - "Mary" - This Mary is not:
Mary Magdalene (who had 7 demons cast out of her by Jesus - Mk. 16:9)
Mary, the mother of Jesus' incarnation, the wife of Joseph

This is Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. The same Mary whose devotion tot Christ was evident when she sat at his feet and listened to Him (Luke 10:39).

Mary no doubt had heard Jesus state that He would be crucified, and she believed Him and anointed Him as a parting kind deed to her Master and Lord.

***What will you do for Jesus?**

Seven features of Mary's good work for Jesus Christ:

I. Mary expressed great THANKFULNESS
w*hen she gave her gift to Jesus*

We know this point from the context of Mary's life.
Mary was so grateful for:
- what Jesus did for her (in saving her)
- what Jesus taught her (as she sat at his feet and learned from Him)
- what Jesus did for her brother (in raising Lazarus from the dead)

All true, sincere acts of service or worship to Jesus Christ are expressions of gratitude, appreciation, or thankfulness for who He is and what He has done on our behalf.

The measure of your gifts to Him really reveal the measure of your appreciation for Him.

II. Mary Made a Great SACRIFICE

w*hen she gave her gift to Jesus (v.3a)*

"A pound" – an alabaster jar containing half a liter.

"spikenard" - "a very precious ointment" (Matthew 26:7)

"Very costly" perfume of pure nard, valued at a year's wages for a common worker or soldier.

In ancient Israel, such an anointing of fragrant oil would have been extremely refreshing (cp. Ps. 133:2).

"Being absolutely controlled by adoration for her Lord, she lost all sense of restraint and economy" (MacArthur, Matthew, p. 134).

God loves a *"cheerful giver"* (II Cor. 9:7).

III. Mary Showed Great HUMILITY and AFFECTION

w*hen she gave her gift to Jesus (v.3b)*

Matthew's & Mark's account describes how Jesus also had the ointment ***"poured on his head"*** (Mt.26:7)

So perhaps starting on his precious head, Mary pours some of the ointment and then in deep humility she falls to her knees and then anoints his precious feet.

"wiping his feet with her hair" - "A woman's hair is her glory (I Cor. 11:15). She surrendered her glory to the Lord and worshipped Him" (Wiersbe, Matthew, p. 95).

Mary's life is only recorded 3 times in the Gospels, and at each time she is at the feet of Jesus -

1) To hear the Word (Lk. 10:38-42)
2) In sorrow after her brother's death (Jn. 11:28-32)
3) Now, to anoint Him

"Mary was a deeply spiritual woman. She found at His feet her blessing; she brought to His feet her burdens; and she gave at His feet her best" (Wiersbe, p. 94-95).

Out of a grateful heart, Mary worships Jesus for what He did for her personally and for what He did for her brother Lazarus.

This woman shows the same humility as King David, who was not embarrassed to publicly praise God with song & dance (II Sam 6:16-22).

Not to be confused with this account, on a prior occasion, another woman offered a similar act of worship in Luke 7:36-39. That woman was described as an unnamed "sinner" who came to Jesus in the home of the critical "Simon the Pharisee" (Lk.7:36) not in the home of the humble "Simon the Leper" (Mk. 14:3; Mt. 26:6).

IV. Mary Overcame Great <u>OBSTACLES</u>

w*hen she gave her gift to Jesus (v.4-7a)*

V. 4

John focuses on "Judas." However, all of the disciples became indignant *"within themselves"* (Mk. 14:4).

<u>All</u> of the disciples became upset by what they viewed as a "waste." But it was Judas who started it; He instigated the murmuring. It was Judas' bad attitude which spread to them.

Matthew 26:8 records them saying ***"To what purpose is this waste?"*** - "A whole year's income wasted in one minute!", They thought. "Why this waste of ointment?! Mary, why didn't you sell that perfume and put the money to real use?!"

*Nothing we give to Jesus is a waste!

(EX: the person who happened to see the size of a check a believer was putting in the offering plate -- looked horrified at the large amount and said, "Why don't you give that to me? <u>I</u> need it!")

Satan always seems to have his tares among the wheat, which spread their poison to others.

It was not "waste" but <u>worship</u> she gave Jesus.

If anything was a waste, it was the life of Judas Iscariot. He wasted privileges, opportunities, his life, and his soul! Jesus called him *"son of perdition"* (Jn. 17:12) which literally means "son of waste" (Wiersbe, p. 95).

v.5 - "three hundred pence" - 300 denarii (a denarii be about a days wage) Hence the total value would have been approximately a year's salary of a rural worker. – (Ryrie note)

Judas' criticism of Mary sounded so "spiritual." He was totally blind to the very high act of spirituality Mary was showing.

"Everytime Mary sought to do something for Jesus, she was misunderstood. Her sister Martha misunderstood her when Mary sat at Jesus' feet to hear Him teach the Word. Judas and the other disciples misunderstood her when she anointed Jesus. Her friends and neighbors misunderstood her when she came out of the house to meet Jesus after Lazarus had been buried (Jn. 11:28-31). When we give Jesus Christ first place in our lives, we can expect to be misunderstood and criticized by those who claim to follow Him" (Wiersbe, p. 95).

v.6 – Judas had no heart for the poor. In reality he (being the Disciple's treasurer) wanted the money so that he could dip his grimy hand into the purse and steal some of the cash for himself. He often manifested his unbelieving heart by his thievery.

v.7 - *"Let her alone"* – Jesus implies that they were really chiding her. They were giving her a verbal tongue whipping. "They troubled her" (Matthew 26:10). Mark records that they *"murmured against her"* (they scolded her; they rebuked her harshly).

Perhaps they thought that Jesus (being the practical Lord He was) would have agreed with them, that this was not "good stewardship."

Well meaning people often do cause trouble to those who are expending time, money, energy, and service to Christ. Without realizing it, because they are walking in the flesh, or listening to disgruntled instigators, they are a bother rather than a blessing to those living for Christ.

V. Mary Revealed Great FAITH

w*hen she gave her gift to Jesus (v.7b)*

"Though the disciples ignored Christ's many predictions of His approaching death, apparently this woman (Mary) believed them" (Ryrie – Matthew note).

And Mary had saved up ("kept") this offering for Christ's burial, but decided to use it on Him now.

"Against the day of my burying hath she kept this" - Rather than using it to anoint His body when He was dead, she used it *"aforehand"* (Mk. 14:8) before He died.

(We often think to do something for someone after they are dead and neglect them while they are alive!)

If you are going to do something for someone, do it now; not when they are dead & gone!
If you are going to do something for Jesus, now is the time!

VI. Mary had Great PRIORITIES

w*hen she gave her gift to Jesus (v.8)*

In Matthew 26:10 Jesus says: ***"She hath wrought a good work upon Me" –*** She did not waste her perfume, she invested it!

Rather than letting it gather dust at home, or using it solely on herself, she gave it all to Christ!

What good works have you done directly for Jesus lately? (works you did not do to receive the recognition of others, but to simply please Jesus?)

"the poor always ye have with you" – This was not a callused or cold remark toward the poor; rather, Christ is saying, "You will have many, many more opportunities to do kind deeds for the poor, but this was her last chance to do something for me (in the flesh) before my death and burial."

We must make time for meeting the needs of the poor (Gal. 6:10), for evangelizing the lost (Mk. 16:15), for discipling the saved (Mt. 28:19-20), for teaching God's Word . . . but at the heart of all ministry lies the necessity to worship Jesus!

"me ye have not always" – Jesus is with us in spirit, but not in the flesh. Therefore, how can we do things for Him today? Answer: See Matthew 25:31-46.

VII. Mary Left a Great <u>MEMORY</u>

w*hen she gave her gift to Jesus (Mark 14:9)*

"John does not mention the precious promise of praise for Mary preserved in Mark14:9 and Matthew 26:13, but he does show her keen sympathetic insight and Christ's genuine appreciation of her noble deed." (Robertson, p. 218)

However, our Lord made this prediction concerning Mary:
Matthew 26:13
Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

"This gospel" - What gospel?

The gospel of His <u>death</u> (v. 2) and <u>burial</u> (v. 12). The Gospel is Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (I Cor. 15:1-3).

"A memorial" - Mary's memory will be as sweet as the fragrance that filled that room the day she spent a year's wages on the Lord.

What memories will you leave behind?

After your life's work is ended and God calls you home, what will people remember you for? What will come to their mind when they recall your name? What legacy will you leave? What will the wording be in your eulogy?

Her memory encourages us to love and serve Christ with our very best.

CONCLUSION:

Upon seeing what he viewed as a tremendous waste of money, Judas became so indignant that he could not stand it any longer. This was the "last straw" (the "straw that broke the camel's back"). Matthew 26:14 records that after this act Judas went to make an agreement to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

His self-centered anger was all it took to open the door for Satan (Eph. 4:26-27).
Satan literally entered into Satan at this point (Lk. 22:3).

What is it that you would not give up for Jesus?

Isn't He worth your time, energy, money, possessions, your very life?

What is Jesus worthy of?
My Lord deserves ...

The best of my devotion
- My best in Prayer
- My best in Bible Study
- My best in Singing
- My best in Giving
- My best in Loving

(Mt.10:37-38 - He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.)

The best of my ability
- My strength
- My talent
- My youth (Eccl.12:1)

The best of my time
- The best use of my moments ("Redeeming the time…" – Eph.5:16)
- The best of my week (Sunday = the first day of the week)

The best of my work ethic

(Eph. 6:5-7 - Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men)

The best of my conduct (a conscientious lifestyle)

1Thess.2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.
Eph.4:1 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called
Col.1:10 - That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;