

Lesson 6: Generosity

Today's Bible Story

Six days before the Passover feast, Jesus traveled to a place called Bethany to visit Lazarus and his family. While he was there, Martha gave a special dinner in his honor, and Lazarus sat with him at the table.

But their sister, Mary, did something rather unusual to show her devotion to Jesus. Taking a jar of perfume, made from a good-smelling substance called nard, she anointed Jesus' feet. Then, she wiped his feet with her long hair! This was a very generous act on Mary's part, as that much perfume would have been quite expensive.

Judas Iscariot happened to be at the same dinner. (He was the disciple who would soon betray Jesus.)

When he saw what Mary was doing, Judas said, "Why are you wasting that ointment? That much perfume is worth almost a whole year's wages! You could have sold it and given the money to the poor!"

Judas didn't really care about the poor. In fact, he was a thief who controlled the disciples' moneybag. From time to time, he would even reach into the bag and take some of the money for himself. This was dishonest and wrong.

Hearing what Judas said, Jesus looked at him and replied, "Leave Mary alone, so she may keep the ointment for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me."

All this was true. In the days ahead Jesus knew that he would be falsely arrested and sentenced to death. The same man, Judas, would be one who betrayed Jesus and turned him in to his enemies. Still led by his greed, Judas agreed to betray Jesus in exchange for a mere 30 pieces of silver.



From John 12:1-11

Bible Rhyme

For supper Jesus went to see
his three good friends in Bethany.
While Lazarus sat down to eat,
his sister, Martha, kept things neat.
Then Mary came into the room
with costly nard, a sweet perfume.
She gave her Lord this gift most rare,
and wiped his feet with her long hair!
Then Judas yelled, "Why waste that stuff
when some poor folk don't have enough?"
But Jesus said, "Leave her alone;
for in a while I'll soon be gone."

What did Jesus say when Judas wanted to sell Mary's perfumed ointment?

To find out, match each number with the correct letter from the answer key; then write those letters in the empty boxes.

Code Key:

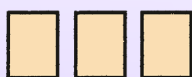
1 = E	7 = A	13 = L
2 = I	8 = T	14 = U
3 = M	9 = H	15 = W
4 = O	10 = P	16 = B
5 = V	11 = S	17 = D
6 = R	12 = Y	18 = N



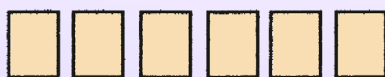
8 9 1



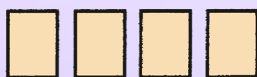
10 4 4 6



12 4 14



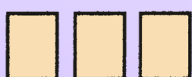
7 13 15 7 12 11



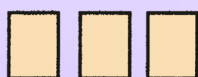
9 7 5 1



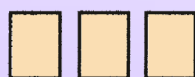
15 2 8 9



12 4 14



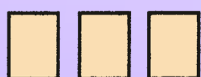
16 14 8



12 4 14



17 4



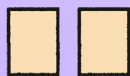
18 4 8



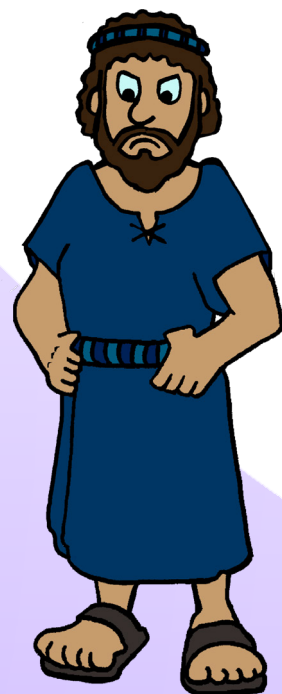
7 13 15 7 12 11



9 7 5 1



3 1



"Anoint" means to pour oil on.

Among the Jewish people, anointing was the ceremony used to make someone king.

Anointing was also something done to prepare a dead body for burial.

Jesus would be proclaimed king in his death on the cross:

"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"