

John 12:1-11

Verses 1-2

- Jesus' hour is getting nearer as He is 6 days before His death.
- This event took place Bethany at Simon the leper's house ([Matthew 26:6](#))
- Among the guests were Simon who was healed of leprosy by Jesus and Lazarus who had been raised from the dead just a few days prior. Imagine the conversation that was had.
- This scene is similar to [Luke 10:38-42](#). In that story Martha is up and working, distracted by all her preparations while Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to Him.
- In this story Martha is up serving and Mary will be at the feet of Jesus.

Verse 3

- Nard was an oil that came from a plant in India.
- The cost of this perfume was ~ 1 years wage.
- Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with this perfume and wiped His feet with her hair.
- The other parallel of this account including [Matthew 26:7](#) and [Mark 14:3](#) records that she poured it on His head. This indicates that she started out by pouring it on His head and it had run down to His feet.
- This was an extravagant display of love, affection, devotion, and humility. There was no cost too high or anything more precious or valuable than Jesus.
- She gave her absolute best for Him and spared nothing for Him. God did not spare His only begotten Son but sent Him to give Himself as a ransom for us.
 - [Romans 8:29-33](#) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies.
- The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. Christ's sacrifice on the cross was a sweet fragrance to the Father.
 - [Ephesians 5:1-2](#) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and walk in love, just as Christ also loved ^[a]you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God ^[b]as a fragrant aroma.

Verses 4-6

- Mary's worship and act of love was interrupted by Judas who was intending to betray Jesus.
- Judas hypocritically shows concern for the poor by wanting Mary to sell the perfume to give to the poor. However, Judas does not care for the poor, but only cares for himself and his wealth.
- The other disciples also become upset with this idea that the perfume is being wasted and agree it should be sold and given to the poor ([Matthew 26:8-9](#)). They had more true and proper motives concerning the poor than Judas.
- Judas was the disciple who was in charge of the money box. He wanted the money that would have come from selling the perfume to be put in the money box so he could steal which he had done before. He was a thief.

Verse 7

- Jesus responds by telling them to leave her alone and links what she is doing to His burial. Perfumes were used at funerals on the bodies prior to burial. Mary in the act of pouring perfume on Jesus is preparing Him for His burial. Jesus is confirming His death and the nearness of that hour.
 - **Matthew 26:12-13** For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. ¹³ Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.”

Verse 8

- Jesus is saying that giving to the poor is not to be done as throughout scripture God instructs and teaches Christians to give to the poor.
- The poor will always be here on earth, but the time is near when the Son on Man will no longer be on this earth.

Verses 9-11

- Word gets out that Jesus and Lazarus are at the house of Simon and many come there to see not only Jesus, but to see and validate Lazarus who Jesus had just raised from the dead.
- Due to the undeniable fact that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and the testimony of Lazarus many are coming to believe in Jesus. The witness of Lazarus and the visual proof that he is alive is hurting the chief priest and Pharisees agenda. As a result, they not only want to kill Jesus, but they also want to kill Lazarus and silence his testimony.

Mary loved Jesus and she poured out her love upon Him lavishly, knowing that He is more precious and valuable than anything she had. Let us be like Mary and not hold anything back from Him in loving Him, worshipping Him, and in our devotion to Him as there is nothing more precious and priceless than Him. He is worthy of all we have and then more. Let our worship and love for Him fill the air as a sweet fragrance everywhere we go as we worship and love Him unashamed. Mary broke the vial so that the sweet aroma filled the room. Upon the cross the body of Jesus was broken so that His precious blood could be shed as His sacrificial death and offering of Himself was a precious and fragrant aroma unto the Father. Mary did not spare her valuable possession or hold back her lavish love for Christ. The Father did not spare His only begotten Son as on the cross the lavish love of God was on full display. Mary anointed Jesus out of love and worship, but it was also done in preparation for His burial which is nearing as His hour is approaching. His death is certain and He will be placed in a tomb, but He will not stay there because He is the resurrection and the life!