

*<sup>1</sup>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. John 12:1-3 NKJV*

Mary is the sister of Martha and Lazarus, and a friend and disciple of Jesus. Each time she is mentioned in the gospel accounts, she is found at the feet of Jesus.

**Luke records her as sitting at Jesus' feet listening to His teaching (Luke 10:39-42). In John 11, we read of her falling at Jesus' feet saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."**

Now we find Jesus at the supper table with Lazarus and others, after Jesus had raised him from the dead. Mary entered this scene, with a gift prepared for Jesus. She was so filled with love, gratitude and worship that she brought what was most precious to her to offer to Him. It is speculated that this **jar of oil may have been Mary's dowry or inheritance.**

She knelt before Him like one of the servants and poured out this costly aromatic oil on His feet and wiped them dry with her hair. Her act of worship ministered to Jesus. She unknowingly prepared His body for His own burial that would take place hurriedly in a few days time.

The fragrance from this perfume would have remained on His skin for days as a reminder of this moment of love and devotion. Perhaps it strengthened Him as He endured the suffering of the cross and considered the end goal of His sacrifice (Hebrews 12:2). Mary and those around them would have also remembered that moment for days and weeks as the fragrance lingered on them and in that house. She performed a beautiful act of service to her Lord and King.

**When you come to worship Jesus, do you come with "oil" prepared for Him, a heart full of gratitude and love, or do you come casually?**

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God? How does it apply to you?
- 2) What offering have you brought to your King who died for you?
- 3) Do you come casually to worship Him or in reverence for WHO HE IS?

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?