

Mary
Anoints
Jesus as
King with
Expensive
Ointment



Jesus said:
“**Leave her
alone...
She has done
what she
could...**”

Have You?



Chapter 12 – Part 1

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- The Anointing by Mary
- Triumphal Entry
- Daniel 9 Prophecy of 69 weeks

John 12

Context & Timing

- This is the 3rd Passover mentioned by John (2:13; 3:24)
- 1st Passover was 46 years after Herod the Great began rebuilding the temple (2:20), making the year 28AD
- That makes this 3rd Passover, the year of Jesus' death, 30AD
- Pilgrims travelled from all over to come to Passover (possibly over 1 million people), and given the most miraculous sign just occurred, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, many would be anticipating what Jesus would do.
- The orders of the chief priest and Pharisees to kill Jesus in 11:47, would have alerted many that something was going to happen with Jesus during this Passover.
- This chapter contains no miracles or long discourse.

The Anointing by Mary - Timing

- Matthew 26 and Mark 14 records this as well but only John tells us this woman is Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus.
- Luke 7:37-50 tells of another woman who anointed Jesus' feet, but this is another anointing (maybe why Matthew and Mark do not name the woman as Mary is because these books were written much earlier (55-68AD) than John (90AD), and it could have been to protect the family since Mary was probably still alive).
- Matthew, Mark & John all place the event in Bethany (2 miles from Jerusalem), but Mark adds it's at the home of Simon of the leper, and they each identify the ointment is pure nard and say that it could have been sold to give to the poor.
- The chronology of each Gospel is slightly different, with Matthew and Mark placing the event after the Triumphal entry, but in John it is placed before (John 12:1 "6 days before Passover" = SATURDAY)
- The Gospels are often not organized by Chronology, but by Topic.
- In John's case, the event is linked to the raising of Lazarus
- In Mark, Mary anoints Jesus' head, but in John it's His feet followed by a wiping with her hair. She did both given the large quantity.

John 12:1-7

The Anointing by Mary

John 12 (NKJV)

12 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to **Bethany, where Lazarus** was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and **Martha served**, but **Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table** with Him. ³ 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.

⁴ But one of His disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, ⁵ "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for **three hundred denarii** and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

⁷ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. ⁸ For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Mark 14 (NKJV)

14 ³ And being in Bethany at the **house of Simon the leper**, as He sat at the table, a **woman** came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and **poured it on His head**. ⁴ But there were **some who were indignant** among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵ For it might have been sold for more than **three hundred denarii** and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply.

⁶ But Jesus said, "**Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷ For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.**

⁹ Assuredly, I say to you, **wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.**"

Mark 14:3-9

The Anointing by Mary

Look in the mirror at our sinful selves

- The Gospels provide an important contrast of the different responses to Jesus.
 - **Woman** (those who want to lavishly **worship** Him),
 - **Judas/Scribes** (those who want to **kill** Him),
 - **Crowds** (who **want something** from Jesus – healing, etc.)
- Woman gave all her wealth to Jesus, Judas took money from Jesus
(think of people who do this today...False Prophets, Greedy people who take from the church instead of giving to it – not even 2 mites).
- In Mark, (“Some of those present”) – the Disciples (v4) are also contrasted with the woman. They appear to follow Jesus’ teaching, yet **they also think the woman’s actions is an indignant waste.**
- **If both Judas and Disciples are contrasted with the woman, does this imply that Judas’ traitorous attitude is typical (the Carnal Man) rather than unique (one filled with the Spirit)?**

The Anointing by Mary

Worship & Sacrifice

- It was a common custom to wash feet before a meal, but this act by Mary is **far beyond normal** custom. She lavishes a very precious perfume of pure “spikenard” on Jesus’ head.
- The value of 300 denarii is **one year’s wages**. In Mark she actually “broke the flask” to pour it all out, indicating her profound sacrificial affection (some think it may have been her dowry for when she got married)
- Mary was the one who when she and her sister Martha had asked Jesus to come over for a meal, sat at His feet while her sister was busy cooking and preparing the food. When Martha criticized Mary for not helping her out with preparations, Jesus told Martha that Mary had chose the good part.



A Denarius was the standard Roman coin from 211BC – 238AD

Mark 14:3-9

The Anointing by Mary

Worship & Sacrifice

- Anointing the head was often for **priesthood or kingship**, so Mary hailed Jesus as King before His triumphal entry to Jerusalem (flashback), and did what the host shamefully neglected.
- However, this anointing (feet) was also for His **burial** (v8), of the “anointed one cut off” (Dan 9:26).
- **Mary**, probably more than anyone, **trusted that Jesus would die and rise again since she witnessed the resurrection of her brother Lazarus, so she did ALL she could do for Jesus and is a lesson of beautiful, unselfish, worshipping.**

Mark/
Matt

John

When God Anoints a Man

Exodus 29:7 – Moses Anoints Aaron

- ⁷ And you shall **take the anointing oil, pour *it* on his head**, and anoint him.

1 Samuel 10:1 - Samuel Anoints Saul

- Then **Samuel took a flask of oil and poured *it* on his head**, and kissed him and said: “*Is it* not because **the LORD has anointed you commander...**

2 Kings 9:3 - Elisha Anoints King Jehu

- ³ Then **take the flask of oil, and pour *it* on his head**, and say, ‘Thus says the LORD: “**I have anointed you king over Israel.**” ’ Then open the door and flee, and do not delay.”

Psalm 133:2 – David Recounts the Anointing of Aaron

- ² *It is* like the **precious oil upon the head**, Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

Psalm 23:5

- **thou anointest my head with oil**; my cup runneth over..

Mark 14:3-9

The Anointing by Mary

What is Sacrificial Giving

- Giving should be a sacrifice, it must cost you something
- In Bible times they sacrificed expensive animals, which they often raised and knew well – this would be heartbreaking
- God demands sacrifice, but after the Cross, He wants our service, tithes and a broken and contrite heart to be the sacrifice.

Malachi 3:8-10

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. **But you say, 'How have we robbed you?'** In your **tithes and contributions.** You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. **Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts,** if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Mark 14:3-9

The Anointing by Mary

Jesus' Teaching

14:6-9 Jesus states the reasons that He stops the disciples from scolding the woman:

1. 'She has done a good deed to Me'

Good deeds for Jesus are received by Him as such, if the heart motive for doing them is also good. The word "good" is also translated "right" and "beautiful".

2. "you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me"

- This hints at hypocrisy, as if "they" (includes disciples) didn't themselves give what they could to Him (could this be us Jesus is talking to?).
- **The needs of the poor can never be fully met by the church**
- This isn't to say that we shouldn't meet the needs of the poor (**Deut. 15:11**) when God gives us opportunity, but it does not replace worshipping Jesus and showing devotion to Him. It's about **priority**.
- **John 12:6** says Judas only wanted to steal the money, not give it to the poor.

Mark 14:3-9

The Anointing by Mary

Jesus' Teaching

3. “She has done what she could” (Question: Are you?)

Mary did ‘what she could’ for Jesus, and this is what God desires for all of us. We don’t all have equal abilities, resources, or opportunities. But, God wants all of us to do our part with what we do have, and do what we can for Him. This is all we are responsible to do, what we can do.

4. “she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial”

This act by Mary was received by Him as an anointing of His body for His burial. It amazingly seems that she understood the message of the Cross more than the disciples did at this time.

Main Lesson:

- **Adoring worship of Christ is the ultimate priority.** Giving to the poor is important (**temporary charity**), but is not as important as worshipping of the Lord (**eternal value**). Same lesson as the story of Mary and Martha, one serving, the other worshipping.

Mark 14:3-9

The Anointing by Mary Fulfilled Prophecy

- As you read the words in Mark 14:9, **you are reading a fulfilled prophecy**. In the midst of the most important event in history, Jesus says that this act of anointing would always be remembered wherever the gospel is preached!

Therefore there are two prophecies contained here:

1. that this deed will be remembered, and
2. that the Gospel will be proclaimed all over the world.

John 12:12-19 The Triumphal Entry



John 12:12-19

The Triumphal Entry

- V.12 “the next day” indicates SUNDAY
- V.12 “the great multitude (crowd)” – is made of pilgrims who have come from all over the region for Passover
- Josephus states that 250,000 lambs were slain or over 2 million people took part in Passover in 66-70AD.
- Palm Branches were plentiful in the area and were a national symbol. Roman coins in Judea even had a palm on them.
- “Hosanna” means “give salvation now” was universally known from Psalm 118:25. Psalm 118 is part of the HALLEL (Ps. 113-118) sung during Passover.
- “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” was understood messianically from Psalm 118

John 12:12-19

The Triumphal Entry

The King Shows Authority & Divine Omniscience

- Mark 11:1-11 describes in greater detail the absolute authority of Jesus' instructions to the disciples, their obedience and the fulfilled predictions of what He said would happen.
- When the Lord spoke, it happened. He was in complete control of all the events leading to the Cross (divine omniscience).
 - The disciples went to the village as commanded,
 - The colt was waiting as predicted
 - The people asked why they were taking the colt as predicted,
 - The disciples answered "the Lord has need of it".
 - They brought Jesus the colt.

John 12:12-19

The Triumphal Entry

- Jesus comes in PEACE – a donkey instead of a war horse
- V.16 – The Disciples fail to understand the nature of Jesus’ kingship and inevitability of the Cross. Christians must also understand these fundamental truths.
- The scene would have been potentially explosive. Jesus could have began an armed revolt then and there.
- While the Sanhedrin had made their decision to kill Him, because of the crowds they decided to execute it in stealth.
- The crowd who calls Him “King of Israel” anticipates the broader sweep of humanity that will do the same and enjoy His reign.

John 12:12-19

The Triumphal Entry

The King Fulfills Prophecy

- Jesus is shown as the prophesied King of peace who would come on a donkey, be from the line of David (**2 Sam. 7:12**), and would redeem God's people (**Zech. 9:11**, Is. 11:10-16, Jer. 30:8-9; Ezek. 34:22-23).
- The main point of the donkey (stated in Matt. 21:4) was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophets. Jesus' triumphal entry fulfilled the prophecy of **Zech. 9:9** (also **Genesis 49:11**). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tadmR8SazYU>
- Another prophecy was fulfilled from **Daniel 9:24-27** – 483 years before the arrival of the Messiah (see next chart for details)
- Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was a picture of the return from exile, with the ransomed Lord entering Zion with singing (Isaiah 35:9).
- As Jesus entered the city, the people spread their clothes on the road and "cried out, saying: **Hosanna!**" which literally means "**Save Us**". The people were shouting Ps 118:26 "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Daniel 9:25-26 Prophecy of the 69 Weeks

100% Proof the Bible is the Word of God!

- Angel Gabriel gives Daniel the prophecy of the entire future world history in 3 verses! (in around 539 BC)
- Daniel 9:24 - 70 weeks (7 * 70) = 490 years –the end of sin and everlasting righteousness – we don't have this yet (Kingdom of God) – 7 year = 1 week (Gen 29:27). The last week (70th week) has not begun yet and is the tribulation period.
- Daniel 9:25 - 69 weeks (7+62) = **483 years** = time for the arrival of the Messiah; v.25 says when **the period began “from the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah”**
- **March 14, 445 BC** Artaxerxes I of Persia gave the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:5)– **from this date until the Messiah comes in the Triumphal Entry is 69 weeks** (<http://www.xwalk.ca/king2.html>)
- Jerusalem was rebuilt in around 400 BC , and then there was to be 62 weeks (434 years) until the Messiah's coming.
- **Sir Robert Anderson**, the leading scholar on this, added the exact days of 483 years from 445BC (taking into account leap years, etc.) and it is the very day Jesus entered Jerusalem and declared the Messiah (6 days before Passover – Palm Sunday)
- 69 weeks (7+62) = 483 years between the command to restore Jerusalem and Messiah, but between 445BC to 30AD is 475 years? But ancient years were calculated as 360 days, and this equals 475 ancient years! (Rev. 1260 days and 42 months is mentioned in a few places; 1260/3.5 years = 360 days). Technically there is a one year difference, but leap years, etc. explain.
- 445BC + 475 years = 30 AD Anointed Ruler Arrives (or 445BC + 30AD = 475 years)
- Luke 3:15 “Everyone was expecting the Messiah...”; The 3 wise men may have known about the Daniel prophecy. Dan. 2:48
- Dead Sea Scrolls proves Daniel was written hundreds of years before Jesus.
- This is the most incredible fulfilled prophecies in the Bible, since is based on MATH, and it can only be explained by the divine origin of the Bible. It is no coincidence that the most revealing and impossible prophecy points to the Jesus Christ.



Daniel 9:25-26 Prophecy of the 69 Weeks

100% Proof the Bible is the Word of God!

Weeks in Daniel	Translation to Years	Total Years of Prophecy
69	7	483
Conversion of the 360 days Years into 365 day years (adjusted by one year-leap years)		475
Start of the Prophecy		445 BC
Date of Jesus Entering Jerusalem		30 AD
Total Number of Years from Start of Prophecy until Jesus Entering Jerusalem on a Donkey		475

Argument from the Critics...How do we know the book of Daniel was written before the time of Jesus?
 Answer - **The DEAD SEA SCROLLS**, discovered in a cave in Lebanon in 1948 **contains the book of Daniel**
 (and Isaiah & most of the OT) **and is dated by experts at 150 BC.**