Jesus and his disciples, along with many other people, were in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. This was a special feast that took place once a year to remember the wonderful things God had done for the Israelites. Bethany was a town near Jerusalem. Jesus and his disciples had been there many times and had made friends with several people in Bethany. They were at the home of a man named Simon having their evening meal.

Mary’s Special Gift

As they were eating a woman walked into the room. Her name was Mary. Jesus and his disciples knew Mary. They often stayed with Mary, her brother Lazarus, and sister Martha when they came to town. When Mary walked into the room, she was carrying a small alabaster box. This box was made of stone and was filled with very expensive perfumes, so expensive that someone would have to work a whole year to have enough money to buy it. Mary carried her box over to Jesus and then she broke it and poured the perfume over Jesus’s head.

The disciples thought that this was a very strange thing for her to do. They thought she was wasting the expensive perfume. They didn’t understand why Jesus was letting her be wasteful. They started to grumble and complain. One of the disciples even said it would have been better for her to let them sell the perfume so they could give the money to the poor. They could have helped a lot of poor people with that money, but instead she was just pouring it all out.

Jesus told the disciples not to talk bad about Mary. Jesus knew that Mary was giving the very best thing she had to worship Jesus. Jesus told the disciples they would always be able to take care of the poor, but Jesus would not always be there with them. This woman wanted to worship him with gifts while he was there. What she was doing was very important. Jesus was about to die. He had been telling people this for a while, but the disciples didn’t understand what he was saying. Mary was helping to prepare his body for when he would give his life and die for all people. Jesus told his disciples that Mary would always be remembered for her kindness that night.

The disciple didn’t understand all of what Jesus was talking about, but they obeyed him and stopped grumbling about the woman. One disciple, named Judas Iscariot, stayed upset about the perfume. Judas was the disciple who took care of their money. Money was very important to him so thinking someone was wasting money made him angry and Jesus saying it was ok also made him angry. Judas was confused. How could Jesus become a powerful ruler if he was going to be ok with wasting money like this? Judas realized that Jesus wasn’t going to be a powerful ruler like a king. He realized that Jesus was going to be powerful in heaven, but he wouldn’t be rich and powerful on earth. Judas thought being on Jesus’s side was going to make him rich or powerful so when he started to understand what Jesus was saying, he changed his mind about wanting to be help Jesus at all. In fact, he decided to turn against Jesus.

Judas decided to have a secret meeting with the members of the Sanhedrin. This was a group of chief priest and scribes who wanted to kill Jesus because they were jealous of how much other people loved him. They were planning to arrest Jesus, but they were going to wait until after the Passover Feast. They thought there were too many people in Jerusalem for the feast who might try to help Jesus if they didn’t wait. Judas went to them and asked what they would give him if he told them where Jesus was. He told them he would wait until he knew Jesus wasn’t in a crowd of people and then take them to him so they could arrest him. They told Judas they would give him 30 pieces of silver if he helped them. Judas agreed and then they started to talk about their evil plan.

1. Why were Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem?
2. What was the lady’s name who came to visit Jesus?
3. What did Mary bring to Jesus?
4. What did Mary do with the perfume?
5. Why did the disciples get upset with what Mary was doing?
6. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
7. Who stayed upset about the perfume?
8. Who did Judas go talk to after the meal?
9. What did Judas tell the members of the Sanhedrin he would do?
10. How much money was Judas going to get for taking them to Jesus?

**Look it Up! (The answers are KJV specific)**

**Matthew 26:8** But when the disciples saw it, they had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 26:12** For in that she hath poured this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on my body.

**Matthew 26:15** …And they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with him for 30 pieces of silver

**Mark 14:3** …there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very precious.

**Mark 14:5** …And they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against her.

**Mark 14:9** …this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of her.

**Luke 22:6** And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the multitude.

**John 12:5** Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**John 12:7** Then said Jesus, Let her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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**My Prayer for You**

My prayer for you that worship like Mary. I pray that you give God your very best. I pray that you focus on worshipping God and not what others think of how you spend your time, money, and talents. There may be times when people try to persuade you to do something else that seems more practical in the eyes of the world. I pray that you remember that following God is far greater than following the world. Don’t let anyone cause you to loose your focus from praising Him.

**Reflection Questions**

1. Has anyone every questioned you about how you worship

God or why you worship God?

1. After Judas started to understand that Jesus was referring to a heaven kingdom and not an earthly kingdom, he was no longer interested in following Jesus? Judas was only following Jesus for what he could get out of it. Have you ever had someone only want to be your friend when it benefited you? How id that make you feel?

**In My World**

Mary came to Jesus with most precious thing she had and used it to worship him. The disciples didn’t understand what Mary was doing or why Jesus was letting her do it, but Jesus felt the great love behind the gift. Sometimes in life God will call us to do something that won’t make sense to those around us. Just as the disciples thought Mary was being wasteful, people may thing we are wasting our time, money, and talents when we are using them to praise God the way He calls us to worship Him. Our job isn’t to do what make sense to others. Our job is to do what God is calling us to do even if upsets those who don’t understand why we are doing it.

A drawing of a person holding a glass

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box.

Matthew 26:7