

March 30, 2025

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John 12

Jesus Anointed by Mary

([Matthew 26:6-13](#); [Mark 14:3-9](#))

1Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

Six days before Passover sets the time of this visit to raise Lazarus from the grave. This also marks the beginning of the last week of Jesus ministry on earth, leading to His Crucifixion.

Let's take a minute to discuss Passover that is coming in April this year.

From Strong's Concordance:

"The Passover is one of the most important Jewish feasts, instituted by God in Exodus 12. It marks the night when the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, sparing them from the plague of the firstborn. The festival involves the sacrifice of a lamb, the eating of unleavened bread, and the retelling of the Exodus story. In the New Testament, Jesus' Last Supper is understood to be a Passover meal, and His crucifixion is seen as the fulfillment of the Passover sacrifice, offering redemption from sin."

From Chabad.org

Passover History in a Nutshell

“As told in the Bible, after many decades of slavery to the Egyptian pharaohs, during which time the Israelites were subjected to backbreaking labor and unbearable horrors, G-d saw the people’s distress and sent Moses to Pharaoh with a message: “Send forth My people, so that they may serve Me.” But despite numerous warnings, Pharaoh refused to heed G-d’s command. G-d then sent upon Egypt ten devastating plagues, afflicting them and destroying everything from their livestock to their crops. At the stroke of midnight of 15 Nissan in the year 2448 from creation (1313 BCE), G-d visited the last of the ten plagues on the Egyptians, killing all their firstborn. While doing so, G-d spared the children of Israel, “passing over” their homes—hence the name of the holiday. Pharaoh’s resistance was broken, and he virtually chased his former slaves out of the land. The Israelites left in such a hurry, in fact, that the bread they baked as provisions for the way did not have time to rise. Six hundred thousand adult males, plus many more women and children, left Egypt on that day and began the trek to Mount Sinai and their birth as G-d’s chosen people.”

I read from several Jewish sites and from Strong’s Concordance about the Passover. One glaring omission in almost every account except the Bible. From what I just read from Strong’s and the Jewish web site Chabad, what is missing? It is quite

astounding! What actually caused the angle of death to pass over one house and not another? The BLOOD

Exodus 12: 5Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

Passover for 2025: Jewish Year 5785: Sunset April 12, 2025 – Nightfall April 19, 2025.

I wonder, if the attention is on the slavery and all of the plagues God brought on Egypt, and the Blood is omitted from the explanation; is that another reason Israel has not accepted the Messiah Jesus Christ? Do they not see the power of the Blood?

Back to our study.

2There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Martha is the quintessential servant of her family and friends. Perhaps we should consider service vs understanding. There are many religions that put service as the key to Salvation. God puts the Blood and Belief before service.

Service indeed having an important role in walking with Christ. He was of course called the “suffering servant” from the references and prophecy of Isaiah 53. Jesus extols the virtue of service by Believers but only upon understanding the sacrifice that was made for mankind.

There must be a Biblical reason for service or help to Christ. If not, then it is self-service, meaning we are doing it out of sense of human interest. Quid pro quo. Either in self-interest or thinking perhaps that it makes me worthy of the Blood of the Lamb. If it is not joyful, Christ centered, and Christ directed, then it is of our own efforts and self-interest.

Mary was in someways the opposite of Martha her sister. Mary preferred to sit at Jesus feet to learn from Him. Jesus made the comment that Mary had chosen the “good part”, meaning to learn and understand the important things of God like Salvation.

Luke 10: 41And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: 42But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

3Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his

feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

This ointment was from India and very expensive especially in its purest form such as Mary used. It was used to anoint one sometimes for burial and other special occasions.

Three points here, first the act using the perfume cost Mary something, as a symbol of her love of the Messiah. Using her hair was a second symbol of adoration of the Messiah. In this culture women's hair was of great significance and usually covered in public. And thirdly she anoints Jesus' feet, in this culture the most unclean part of the body.

Mary uses the very costly perfume and her own treasurable hair to show her love of the Messiah to do the unthinkable and wash his feet. Not words but actions. It was a Spiritual demonstration of the life of a person saved by the Blood of Christ, a sweet aroma to Jesus and to God.

2 Corinthians 2:15 For we are a sweet perfume of Christ to God in those being saved and in those perishing:

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

4Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, 5Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? 6This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Perhaps a perfect example of the opposite of selfless action of Mary that showed her love of the Messiah.

Judas's shows the epitome of love of self and love of property, money, power over love of others, especially of the love of the Messiah.

7Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

Whether Mary understood the coming event or not she extended a kind and thoughtful gesture toward the King of Kings and it is remembered to this day.

8For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

The poor are a perpetual existence on this earth. There are many reasons people are poor, and God tell us to be "open thine hand wide", meaning be generous to the poor.

Deuteronomy 15:11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Jesus would not be present a week from this day as they knew Him today. His point is to prioritize things in the Kingdom of God. At this moment, they would look back at and He did not want them to regret these moments with Him.

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

9Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. 10But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; 11Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

Evil deeds get complicated when the TRUTH arrives, and when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead it really complicated things for the religious leaders. Religious leaders refused to accept that the miracles that Jesus did were from God but instead pointed to Satan as evil trying to fool the people.

Raising a person from the dead who had been dead for 4 days was a miracle that even the high priest could not argue.

John 11: 17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

So, the evil solution is to kill both the man that was raised and kill the MAN that raised him.

This idea was challenging on many fronts but the most horrific front from these leaders that God said no, it is not time.

The Triumphal Entry

(Zechariah 9:9-13; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40)

Zachariah 9: 9Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

10And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

11As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

12Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee;

13When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.

12On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. 14And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, 15Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

Timing is quite important to God at least in this realm of earth. It is one of the things God has made to give men comfort in knowing at least to a point in time that the Sun will rise in the morning as it has for thousands of years. But even that will come to an end at the exact moment God decrees.

Timing and exact fulfillment of prophecy are part of the method God conveys to us His Love, Mercy and Grace. All is under HIS control, and nothing happens without His agreement. Not necessarily HIS endorsement, but He agrees to allow things to happen so that mankind will know HE IS GOD.

16These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and *that* they had done these things unto him.

John makes the comment that we have spoken of about, hindsight. The disciples saw things happen and did not have context to understand them. We have not seen them with our own eyes, but we have the context and we Believe.

Based on vs 16, the disciples were aware of all the prophecies about the coming Messiah as were the religious leaders. The disciples were pre-occupied with living their lives with Christ, see

all that He was doing and saying. The religious leaders were perhaps so caught up in their hatred, fear and anger towards Christ that they had not thought of the prophecies of the coming Messiah. If Satan had not so filled the religious leaders with blinding anger they would not have only been able to see what God was doing through His Son, but they had the context of these very events written hundreds and thousands of years before the events.

17The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. 18For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

A big problem for the religious leaders about Jesus and Lazarus is that there were many witnesses. Even if they could dispose of Jesus and Lazarus what about all those who saw the event of Lazarus coming out of the tomb?

19The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

These religious leaders then and leaders we see today have no idea how big a problem they are going to meet. Those who reject Christ are as the proverb says, “between a rock and a hard place”.

Isaiah 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Jesus Predicts His Death

20And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: 21The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. 22Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

The term “Greek” here is a reference to Gentiles who love God and have given themselves to Christ. They have come to join the Jews in Passover. It shows the openness of the Jewish nation at that time to allow Gentiles/Greeks to come and join in the festival. When these gentiles heard that Jesus was there, they longed to meet and speak with HIM.

It was a moment in time that Jesus would reveal His knowledge of His coming Crucifixion.

23And Jesus answered them, saying, *The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 24Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

These were common people that could understand an analogy of how a seed grows once it falls to the earth, dies and is buried. It is through this process that the seed becomes greater than being just a seed, bringing new life as it sprouts and grows.

His intent was to encourage them in understanding the need for Him to die as did the seed in His analogy; that the CHURCH, the Body of Christ would grow to immense proportions. Remember Jesus did not say that religion would grow but the idea was that the Body of Christ the True and Living Body of Christ the Big C Church would grow and prosper for HIS sake.

25He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 26If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my Father* honour.

Jesus said this as well recorded in Matthew.

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

The point being that if we love this life more than our Spiritual life then which life suffers?

Whatever we feed the most will be the life that has preeminence. If we feed the physical body and ignore our Spiritual Body then the Spiritual life does not grow, it will get small and smaller.

27Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

Jesus was man, with all the attributes of man. His mind could sense what was coming and it was a fearful thing to contemplate. Jesus had laid aside all His power and relied solely on the Father. When Jesus would ask of things from the Father, He knew the Father would help Him. He also knew the reason why He had come to earth as a man in the first place and that was to save mankind from sin and death. It was that supreme mission that Jesus had taken on, and even though the thoughts of what was to come, ***“troubled His soul”*** He deferred to God.

29The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

Like Paul's conversion, where the people with Paul heard and saw things, God speaks to His Son and to some it sounds like thunder.

30Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

Jesus makes it clear that He communicates with God constantly. When God speaks so that other human being can hear Him it is for their benefit not for Jesus's.

31Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

I don't know how many times I have read this verse and just now see something that slipped by me. Vs 31

31Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

A good deal of conversation among scholars as to when the event in Revelation would or did take place.

Revelation 12: 9And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

33This he said, signifying what death he should die

Psalms 22:16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Crucifixion was the Roman means of killing the worst of the worst criminals. It was forbidden

Deuteronomy 21:23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

34The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

Daniel 7:14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

35Then Jesus said unto them, **Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. 36While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.**

We were all in darkness until we realized that we were sinners destined for death. At the moment we realized that we needed a Savior, the light opened our eyes. Jesus is the Light unto the World. He is the light that saves humanity. Jesus is telling these people of the importance of the Light, the Messiah.

April 6, 2025

We had just covered the events leading to the upcoming Last Supper of Christ. Jesus had gone back to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover with His Disciples.

People were always following Him to hear Him. A group of Greeks (Gentile) Believers in God had come to speak to Jesus. So, we pick up again where Jesus is speaking to a number of people including His Disciples.

37But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38That the saying of **Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, **Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?** 39Therefore they could not believe, because that **Esaias** said again, 40**He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal****

them. 41These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

No man can see God and live. So, Isaiah saw the preincarnate Christ, the very One that the religious leaders of Israel wanted to kill.

42Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

Religious pressure in that day was similar to political and peer pressure of today. People, even some of an inner circle then were so afraid of being disassociated with the religious elites, the in crowd, the power brokers, the ones who could make their lives good or miserable, that they simply spoke the words that kept them safe from being ostracized.

43For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

44Jesus cried and said, **He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.**

This verse almost sounds like a contradiction, so it needs to be read carefully. What Jesus is saying is that Believing in Him is not a singular belief, in other words you cannot Believe in Jesus alone, there is more to Belief. If you believe in Jesus, then by

default you will also believe in God the Father who sent Jesus. Jesus always points to the Father.

45And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

Many people have asked Jesus to show them God. His response is always the same. If you see (ME) Jesus then you have seen the Father, because they are ONE. One God in three different beings.

Just as we are three beings in one body: Body, Soul and Spirit, so God is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

46I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Jesus is the “light unto the world”. When the light shines darkness disappears. If you are in darkness, then you do not know or have the Messiah Jesus in you. Surrender to Jesus, invite Him into your hearts and darkness will disappear. Surrendering is not mental assent, this is heart circumcised love and Belief in Christ the Messiah.

47And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Jesus did not bring judgement with Him on His first journey to physical earth. Jesus came to save first the House of Israel then the Gentiles. That judgement for those who reject Him is pending at the Great White Throne Judgement at the end of the millennial reign of Christ on earth. But even before the Great White Throne Judgement Jesus tells us that our sins are judged already by the Word of God. We don't decide what is sin, God does, and God has already judged sin. All sin brings death.

Jesus is the only power over death, and we are judged by and through Him, and His judgement upon Believers is Redeemed, Saved by the Blood of the Lamb! That is His judgement of Salvation.

For the Believer there is another judgement that is a rewards judgement, the Bema Seat Judgement.

2 Corinthians 5:10 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

49For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

John 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Jesus's Words are life to Believers but death to those who reject Him.

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