

## **The Faces of Holy Week:**

### **I. The Woman and the Alabaster Jar-Matt 26:6-13**

#### **Introduction:**

In the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry, while He is in Bethany, a woman enters a dinner gathering carrying an alabaster jar filled with costly perfume. Without a word, she breaks the jar and pours the fragrance upon Jesus an act of extravagant devotion that shocks those present. Some see waste. Jesus sees worship.

This account appears in *Gospel of Matthew* 26:6–13, *Gospel of Mark* 14:3–9, and *Gospel of John* 12:1–8 (where the woman is identified as Mary of Bethany). The perfume likely pure nard was worth a year's wages, making this not a casual gesture but a costly sacrifice. In breaking the jar, she gives what cannot be retrieved. Her act becomes a prophetic preparation for Jesus' burial and a model of wholehearted surrender.

Jesus declares that wherever the gospel is preached, her story will be told in memory of her. In a moment when betrayal is forming and misunderstanding surrounds Him, her devotion stands as a beautiful contrast love that recognizes His worth before the cross.

#### **1.) She finds her Blessing (Lk 10:38-42)**

**2.) She brings her burdens (Jn 11:28-32)**

**3.) She gives her very best**