

“Why Wasn’t This Sold?” - John 12:1-11

Ask - “What type of perfume (or cologne for men) do you use?”

Background - After raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus went to the remote city of Ephraim where He stayed with the disciples. The chief priests and Pharisees were determined to kill him. Despite the danger, Jesus planned to return to Jerusalem for the annual Passover celebration.

“Jesus Returns to Bethany” - John 12:1-3

(v1) Where did Jesus go? What was significant about this place? How close was it to Jerusalem (*John 11:18*)? When did He arrive (*generally believed to be the Saturday before Palm Sunday*)?

(v2) What did they do for Him that night? Who served the meal? Why is it notable that Lazarus ate with them?

(v3) What did Mary do that night, perhaps during the meal? Compare Mary and Martha’s behavior with how they acted during an earlier visit (*Luke 10:38-42*).

WITH PASSOVER JUST 6 DAYS AWAY, JESUS RETURNED TO BETHANY WHERE HE HAD RAISED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD. A DINNER WAS HELD FOR HIM AND MARY WASHED HIS FEET WITH PERFUME.

“Judas Iscariot Objects” - John 12:4-8

(v4-5) What spoken reason did Judas Iscariot give for rebuking Mary? What detail is foreshadowed in these verses?

(v6) Regardless of what he said, what was the real reason why Judas was upset by Mary’s actions? How did he mishandle the disciples’ money?

(v7) What did Jesus say to Judas regarding Mary? For what purpose did He instruct her to keep the remainder of her perfume, rather than sell it?

(v8) Does this verse imply or suggest that we shouldn’t take care of the poor? What did Jesus mean by saying it? Discuss.

JESUS CAME TO THE TOMB BUT IT WAS CLOSED. MARTHA WAS HESITANT TO OPEN IT, BUT JESUS TOLD HER TO BELIEVE. THEY MOVED THE STONE AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE.

“The Chief Priests Conspire” - John 12:9-11

(v9) Who came (presumably from Jerusalem and the surrounding area) to Bethany that night? What did they come?

(v10-11) Besides Jesus, who else did the chief priests plan to capture and kill? Why? *(Though uncertain, it is possible that this was the manner by which Lazarus died the second time, not long after he'd been raised from the dead.)*

MANY PEOPLE CAME TO BETHANY THAT NIGHT TO SEE BOTH JESUS AND LAZARUS. THE CHIEF PRIESTS HAD DECIDED TO KILL THEM BOTH.

Application - Jesus often stayed with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus during His trips to Jerusalem. On this occasion, they held a dinner for Him and Mary washed His feet with perfume. Judas questioned her actions, but Jesus defended them. Have you ever questioned someone else's service for Christ? Were your concerns justifiable or not (like Judas')? Think about it.