

Anointed By A Woman In Bethany Matthew 20:6-13

Introduction

In this scripture we see a woman give something precious for the Savior she loves. This story is also found in John 12:1-7.

The Expensive Oil Used to Bless Jesus (vv.6-7)

Jesus and the disciples had traveled to Bethany to be guests of Simon the leper. While they were having a meal a woman, who is identified as Mary in John 12, approached Jesus. She had a container of an expensive ointment. The ointment could have brought a good price had she chosen to sell it. Instead, she anointed Jesus with it. John says she anointed His head and His feet and dried His feet with her hair.

The Disciples Did Not Understand the Blessing (vv. 8-9)

The disciples did not understand Mary's actions. They thought she was wasting the oil. They knew the price the oil would have brought and that the money from the sale could have used for the poor.

Jesus Explains the Blessing (vv. 10-13)

Jesus explained to the disciples that through her actions, the woman honored Him. Jesus said that since He was getting ready to die on the cross for the sins of the world the woman was preparing His body for burial. He went on to declare that the woman would be remembered as an example of sacrificial giving.

Life Application

Christians are called on to give of their time, talent and money for the building of the Kingdom. However, there are times when we don't give our best in service. In those times, we try to hold back a portion for ourselves, especially when it comes to money. Holding back is disobedient and in turn dishonors the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Jesus gave His life so that we may be free. Because of His sacrifice we should always be willing to give our best in service to Him.

I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, O LORD, for it is good. – Psalm 54:6 (NIV)

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. – Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV)

Questions for Discussion and Meditation

How can we give a sacrificial offering to Jesus?

Do you always give your best to the Lord?

What have you done for God lately?

Preview of Next Week's Lesson

In Jonah 1, Jonah is given a mission from God