

### **Recap of 2/26/17 (12:1-8):**

1. In John 12:1-8 we once more see Mary at the feet of Jesus, this time to worship Him, anointing Him for His death. She took her most treasured possession, a sealed alabaster jar of pure nard, an expensive fragrant oil worth a year's wages (possibly her dowry) and broke the bottle and wiped Jesus' feet with it, drying it with her hair, an act of extravagant and sacrificial love on her part. Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:3-9 are parallel passages.
2. "Mary's action in anointing Christ for His burial suggests that she truly understood something of the nature of His death and even His resurrection. The others had probably heard the same truths that she listened to as she sat at the feet of Jesus, and with her they had witnessed the raising from the dead of her brother Lazarus. They had heard and seen but they had not understood. Mary was different from them,... Her love was not only sensitive; it was wonderfully comforting. Mary did more than anoint Christ's body: she provided balm for His soul." (from: Daily Thoughts on Bible Characters)
3. "You and I can become so busy. We can get caught up in our plans, in our dreams. Even when our bustling activity is religious—doing things for Jesus—we can be like the people who surrounded Jesus then. " "She alone was aware of the sense of doom that weighed Jesus down... May we be as sensitive to Jesus as Mary was." (Lawrence Richards)
4. Jesus is preparing to die for His people...for the world, yet so few of His closest associates believed or understood this truth-Mary seemed to. As with Mary, we should withhold nothing in our devotion to Jesus. We should give sacrificially of ourselves and our resources to Him. Nothing should be too costly for our Savior.
5. Judas, out of avarice and greed (vv. 4-6), objects to Mary's act of devotion. His words were pious but hid the fact that he was a thief. Sadly, his objection was picked up by the other disciples (Matthew 26:8; Mark 14:4,5). This is a warning to us that spiritual-sounding words can hide the worst of motives and can influence even a church. We must be discerning.