

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 21

Mary Anoints Jesus

Mary Anoints Jesus

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will use Mary's example to show that spending time with Jesus and giving Him what we have is the most important thing we can do.

Key Verses

John 12:1-8—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 26:6-14; Mark 14:3-9 (Parallel Passage)

Luke 10:38-42

Memory Verse - Mark 12:30

"And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Romans 10:13.

Have the class make a list of things you do every day/often. It should include necessary things (sleep, eat, go to school) and fun things (play games, watch TV). Choose any two and ask which is more important. The pick two more tasks and ask. Do this until you have determined what the most important thing you do is. Then ask if that "most important thing" is more important than spending time with Jesus. Today, we are going to meet someone who knew that spending time with Jesus is more important than anything.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

A few weeks ago, we met not only Lazarus, who rose from the dead, but his two sisters, Mary and Martha. Before that, the first time the Bible records Jesus encountering these two sisters is in Luke 10:38-42. In that passage, Martha scolded her sister for sitting at Jesus' feet while she was working to serve Jesus. However, Jesus rebuked Martha and commended Mary for making the better choice of spending time with Him. In today's story in John 12:1-8, the scene is similar. Martha was serving as Jesus was having a meal with others. Then Mary came out with expensive oil and poured it on Jesus' feet. After that, she used her hair to dry His feet. When Judas saw this, he became indignant. Judas argued that Mary could have sold this expensive oil and used the money to help the poor. John gives us some extra insight by saying that Judas wasn't really concerned for the poor. He was only asking because he was in charge of the money bag and wanted to steal the money for himself. Jesus rebuked Judas and told him to leave her alone. After all, there would always be poor people to help, but this was their opportunity to be with Jesus. He declared that Mary had recognized what was happening and had anointed Jesus in preparation for His burial. Both Matthew and Mark add that Jesus announced that wherever the Gospel is preached, there this story of Mary's generosity would be told and remembered.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

The Gospels record three different stories involving Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha (note that there are several other Marys in the New Testament, such as Jesus' mother and Mary Magdalene, who are not the same as this Mary). We see her sitting at Jesus' feet in Luke 10, mourning her brother in John 11, and here in John 12 (also recorded in Mark 14 and Matthew 26).

In each of these stories, one characteristic of Mary stands out: she wanted to be with Jesus. Everything else was secondary. When she had a chance to be with Jesus and show that she loved Him, she took advantage. She poured out her expensive oil (worth an entire year's wages) on His feet without thinking twice. No one was more important to her than Jesus. Keep in mind, the things Mary chose Jesus over were not bad things. In fact, they were very good. Serving others and giving to the poor are all things that please the Lord. However, none of those things compare to time spent with Jesus. Mary took what she had, her time, her possessions, her love, and she gave them to Jesus because He alone is worthy of them.

LOOK (Continued)

Those who looked at Mary's life might have thought that she had misguided priorities. Martha accused her of ignoring her responsibilities. Judas accused her of waste and financial foolishness. But both times, when others criticized her, Jesus commended her for making the better choice. She recognized the value of being with Jesus and knew that He was worthy of all that she had.

Like Mary, we all have been given certain resources. We might not have precious oil, but we have time, energy, and talents. Will we give those things to the Lord like Mary did? Every day, we have a choice of how to use our time. It can be spent on entertaining things (like playing outside or watching TV), good things (like spending quality time with friends and family or doing chores), or the best things, such as spending time with Jesus in His Word and prayer. That does NOT mean skipping your chores to read the Bible or not doing your homework because we want to spend time with Jesus. Instead, try replacing some of the less important things you enjoy doing with time spent with Jesus. Instead of watching a TV show, spend that time praying for others. After dinner, rather than going to play in your room, ask your family to read a Bible story together. Make Jesus the most important thing in your life!

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Mark 12:30.

In the lesson, we primarily looked at how to give our *time* to Jesus. Think of other things we can give to Jesus (energy, talents, etc.) and come up with ways to offer them to Him.

Pray: Thank the Lord for giving us the gifts of prayer and His Word. Ask Him to be the most important person in our lives.

Parent Question: How can I give Jesus my time, energy, and talents?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 12:1-8 by David Guzik

The Hour Has Come

A. A banquet at Bethany.

1. ([Jhn 12:1-3](#)) Lazarus eats, Martha serves (without complaining), and Mary anoints the feet of Jesus.

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

a. **There they made Him a supper:** Less than a week before His crucifixion, Jesus attended a dinner in His honor at the home of Simon the Leper ([Matthew 26:6](#) and [Mark 14:3](#)). His friends Martha, Lazarus, and Mary were also in attendance.

b. **Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus:** In the midst of the supper, Mary gave a remarkable gift to Jesus. It wasn't unusual to wash the feet of a guest, but it was unusual to use **very costly oil of spikenard** to do it, and remarkable to **wipe the feet with her hair**.

i. Mary's gift was remarkably *humble*. When a guest entered the home, usually the guest's feet were washed with water and the guest's head was anointed with a dab of oil or perfume. Here, Mary used this precious ointment and **anointed the feet of Jesus**. She considered her precious ointment only good enough for His feet.

ii. Mary's gift was remarkably *extravagant*. She used a lot (**a pound**) of a **very costly oil of spikenard**. Spices and ointments were often used as an investment because they occupied a small space, were portable, and were easily negotiable in the open market. Judas believed this oil was worth *300 denarii* ([John 12:5](#)), which was worth a year's wages for a working man.

iii. Mary's gift was remarkably *unselfconscious*. Not only did she give the gift of the expensive oil, she also **wiped His feet with her hair**. This means that she let down her hair in public, something a Jewish woman would rarely (if ever) do.

iv. In all of this, Mary is a study of devotion to Jesus. "The life of Mary is painted for us, in three memorable pictures, in each of which she is at the feet of Jesus." (Eerdman)

2. ([Jhn 12:4-8](#)) Judas objects to Mary's rich gift.

Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

a. **Judas Iscariot ... who would betray Him:** In a short time Judas would betray Jesus, and his betrayal is so much darker when contrasted with the light of Mary's devotion to Jesus. No doubt, Judas objected to Mary's gift because he was convicted by her simple and powerful display of love.

i. This is the only place in the New Testament where Judas is mentioned as doing something evil *other* than his betrayal of Jesus, and even this was done in secret. Judas successfully hid the darkness of his heart from everyone except Jesus.

ii. Judas teaches us that outward appearances can be deceptive. Many people have a religious facade that hides secret sin.

b. **Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred, denarii:** Judas had a sharp sense of financial values, but no appreciation of what God valued. He thought this was too much love and devotion to show to Jesus.

i. If we are extravagant in our love for Jesus, *He* will not criticize us; that is what Judas did. Are we like Mary, extravagant in our love for Jesus, or are we like Judas, criticizing others who are?

c. **She has done this for the day of My burial:** Mary knew something that the disciples didn't understand. She knew that Jesus was going to die, and so she was compelled to offer this extravagant gift of devotion to Jesus. Mary had more insight than others because she spent time at the feet of Jesus.

i. "This was the moment at which Jesus was symbolically set apart for burial by one who really understood what was happening." (Boice)