

Mary's Memorial

Biblical compliments to women

- Deborah
- Ruth
- Hannah
- Esther
- Prov.31
- Syro-Phoenician
- Mary, mother of Jesus
- Poor widow
- Dorcas
- Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus

Three memorials

Matthew 26 and Mark 14

John 12

I. Matthew and Mark

Mt.26:6

- Bethany – modern *el' Azariyeh* –
place of Lazarus
- Simon – leper, now healed (or dead)
- Jesus – reclining

Mt.26:7; Mk.14:3

- Matthew and Mark: “a woman” not named
- Pour oil on His head: Ps.23:5
 - Guests expected oil for head (Lk.7:46)
 - This is very costly, fragrant oil

Mt.26:8; Mk.14:4

- **Disciples:** don't get it (not unusual)
- **Indignant:** angry, displeased

Mt.26:9; Mk.14:5

- More than 300 denarii
 - Poor people: shocked at extravagance
- Criticize her sharply: scolded, censured

Mt.26:10; Mk.14:6

- Jesus rebukes disciples, defends woman
- “Trouble”: bothering, criticizing
- “Good work for Me”: “beautiful” expression of devotion
- Leave her alone: unconstructive criticism troubles good people

Mt.26:11; Mk.14:7

- Her act did not interfere with charity; He urged it (Mt.25:31-46)
- Lord's time is running out . . . The woman's loving devotion for Him is time sensitive

Mt.26:12; Mk.14:8

- For...she is preparing My body for burial
 - “This anointing prepared Him for His burial after dying the death of a criminal, for only in that circumstance would the customary anointing of the body be omitted” – Daube
- Jesus knew that in days He would hang on a cross
 - Mary must have had the same insight
 - “She, and she first, believes that Christ would die...” (and be raised?)
- Beforehand

Mt.26:13

- Jesus knew this gospel would circle the globe
- “Gospel”: His death would not end the divine plan (1 Co.15:1-4)
- This woman would be remembered (her memorial)

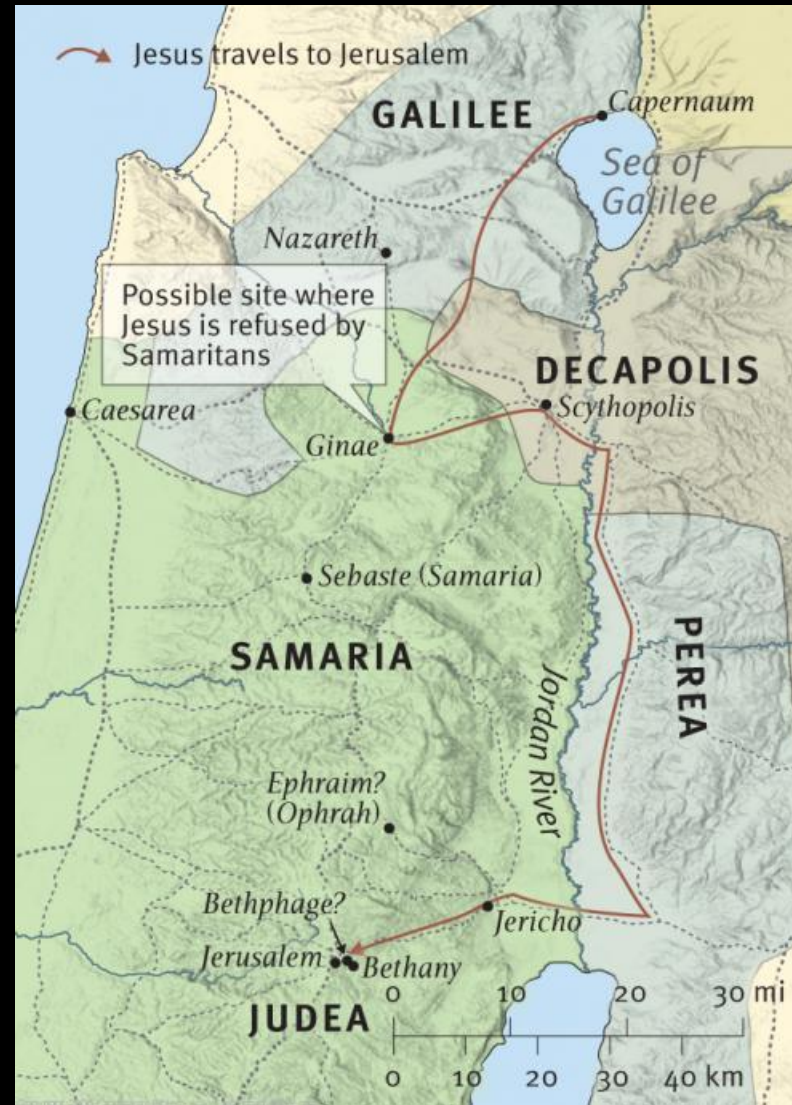
History would treat her with more respect than the disciples had

I. Matthew and Mark

II. John

John 12:1

- **Then:** resumes narrative from 11:55
- **This is Saturday evening**
 - Passover begins on Thursday (13:1)
- **Bethany**



John 12:2

- Made Him a supper; Martha served
 - She is not worried and troubled as in Lk.10
- Lazarus lives (9-11)

John 12:3 (1)

- “Then” = verse 2: because Lazarus is here
- Woman of Mt.26 / Mk.12 is Mary
- Roman pound: 12 oz. (about one pint)
 - Spikenard: aromatic oil of spike
 - Spike: ear of plant
 - Nard: root of plant
 - Oil: from herb imported from India in alabaster (marble flasks)
 - ASV: pure (genuine, authentic): Mary’s extravagant gift

John 12:3 (2)

- **Matt. / Mark:** poured on His head (Ps.133)
- **John:** poured on His feet
 - Mt.26:12; Mk.14:7, anointed His body
- **To unbind her hair in public was a disgrace to Jewish woman**
 - Illustrates her love and humility
 - She owes Jesus for salvation, and for resurrection of Lazarus

John 12:4-5

- One disciple (Judas) –
 - Mt.26:8 – a waste
 - Judas objected – “Why was this money wasted on Jesus . . . ?”
- 300 denarii illustrates Mary’s generosity
 - Year’s wages. **Contrast Judas’ greed**
 - He hides covetousness behind mask of charity **(could have given it to the poor)**

John 12:6

- Thief: steal, similar to our shop-*lifting*
 - Judas “used to take” (pilfer, steal) from the money box

John 12:7

- Judas will betray Him; Mary will embalm
- Judas is a hypocrite; Mary is pure

John 12:8

- Opportunity to show gratitude to Jesus – time was running out

I. Matthew and Mark

II. John

III. Lessons From Mary

Unusual for one act to be recorded in three NT books

- Emphatic repetition
- Fix this in your memory – why?

We need to be like Mary

We need to be unlike Judas

Do I give Jesus alabaster boxes of...

1. Attention to His word?

- Why did Mary know about Jesus' death (and resurrection?) but disciples did not?
- Mt.16:21; Mt.17:22-23; Mt.20:17-19
 - Lk.10:38-42, Mary, always at His feet

Learned,
Lk.10

Leaned,
Jn.11

Loved,
Jn.12

Do I give Jesus alabaster boxes of...

1. Attention to His word?

Learned,
Lk.10

Leaned,
Jn.11

Loved,
Jn.12

- Six days before He dies
 - Influenced by listening to His words ...
 - Indebted to His miracle ...
 - Insistent upon His anointing...
- If she had waited for disciples' approval, there would have been no anointing

Do I give Jesus alabaster boxes of...

2. Attachment to His work?

– Do I make best of my opportunities?

- Way I treat His disciples? Mt.25:...40

- Hypocrites always find fault in others.
How did Mary respond? Do I...?

– She did what she could (Mk.14:8). Do I?

Do I give Jesus alabaster boxes of...

3. Adoration in His worship?

– Do I give Him “my best”? Mt.26:10

- Alabaster box of study, faith, praise?
- My time, money, energy, prayers...?

Do I give Jesus alabaster boxes of...

4. Appreciation?

- Simon: cured from leprosy
- Lazarus: raised from the dead
- We: salvation

Do I give Jesus alabaster boxes of...

5. Abasement of self

- Mary spared no expense; humbly let hair down to wipe feet (3).
 - Talmud: duty of maid-servants
- Gave her best in spite of disapproval (4).
 - Ph.4:12-13
 - Ph.2:8

Judas

- Preferred money in his pocket over the Savior in his heart.
- Judas who stole money would betray the Lord for money.
- Judas is the real “waster” (not Mary)

If he had not scolded Mary, we would not know the costliness of her gift

Lazarus

- Reclined at the table with Jesus (12:2)
- Everyone He saves from sin is made...
“to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ep.2:6)

Mary's memorial

- U.S. known for famous memorials
- Mary's memorial is most beneficial –

Her example reminds us
to give Him our best

Lord

- Died to save me from my sins
- What do I bring Him?