*37* STUDY OF MARK 2020

A Woman’s Act of Love for Jesus

Mark 14:1-11

“...a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.” (3b)

1. What did the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorate (1, Deut 16:1[[1]](#footnote-1); Mk 14:12,24)? What would happen to Jesus two days later during the feast? (1Co 5:7[[2]](#footnote-2)) Who were the ones plotting to kill Jesus? (2) Yet, where was Jesus and what was He doing? (3) What does this tell us about Jesus’ faith?
2. Read verse 3. Who came to Jesus? What did she have with her? How valuable was the perfume?[[3]](#footnote-3) (5) What could this woman have done for herself with the perfume? Yet, what did she do? What does this tell us about her heart towards Jesus? Why did this woman so lavishly ***pour*** out her love on Jesus? (Mark 12:24; also *refer to the first two questions above in question 1*)
3. How did those present feel about the woman's action and why? (4,10) Why did they rebuke her harshly? (5) What does this reveal about how they viewed Jesus? What did Judas value more than Jesus? (10-11)
4. How did Jesus respond to the people’s criticism? (6a) What was Jesus’ take on the woman’s action? (6b) What made her act a “beautiful thing”? How did Jesus use the woman’s seemingly “wasteful” act? (7-8) How pleased was Jesus with this woman? Explain. (9)
1. Deut 16:1….celebrate the Passover of the Lord your God, because …..he brought you out of Egypt... [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 1 Cor 5:7b…….For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. nard is harvested from the Spikenard plant which only grows in the Himalayan Mountains of China, India and Nepal. Those few who could afford such an expensive, imported item would generally use it very sparingly. Others used the perfume as a way of investing their money in a lucrative commodity which they could easily sell at a profit. This woman had a whole alabaster jar full of this very expensive perfume. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)