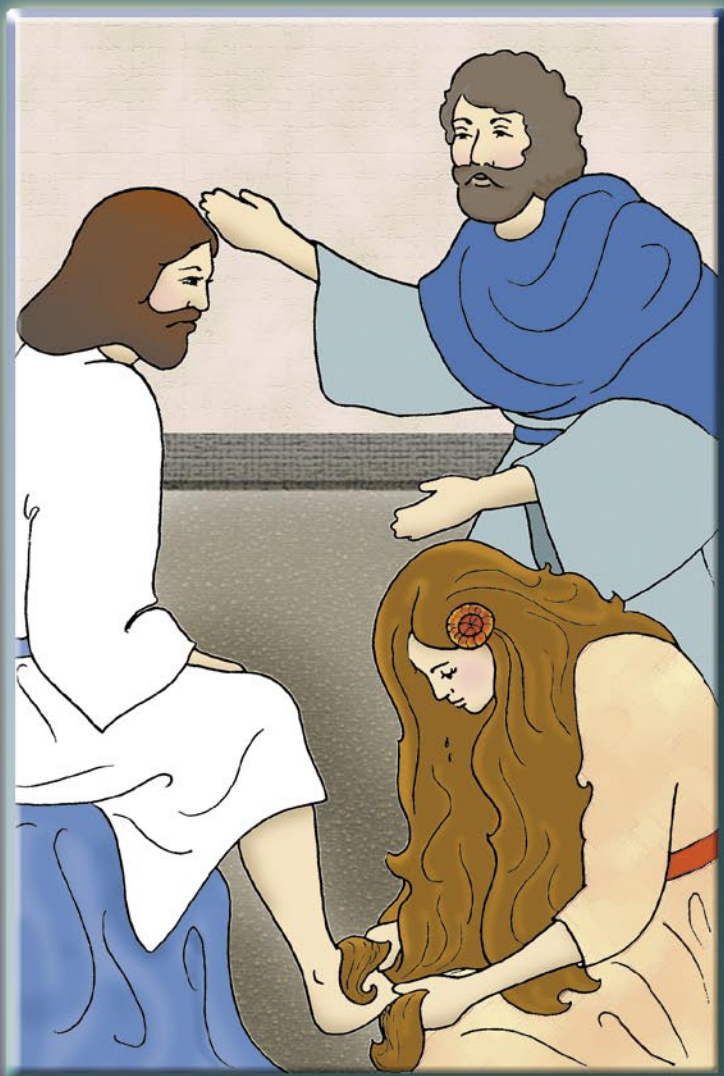
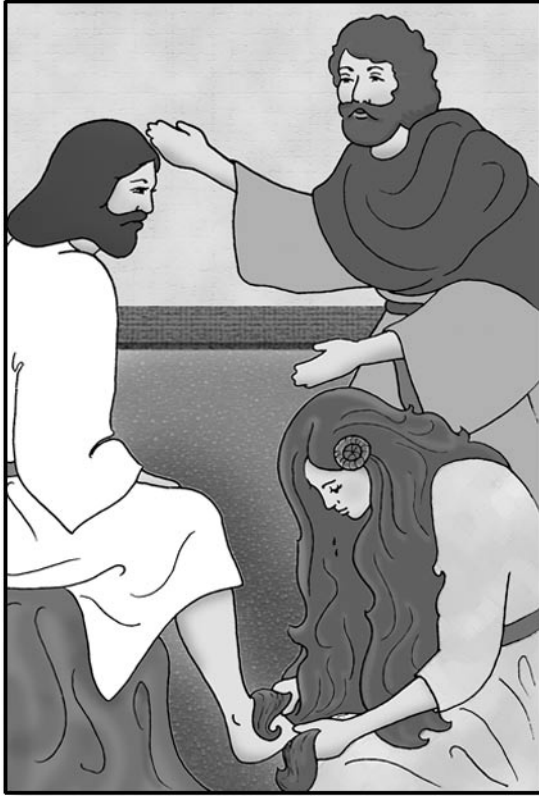


*"She Hath Done
What She Could"*



“She Hath Done What She Could”



Jesus said that one single act of kindness to him, just before his crucifixion, would be spoken throughout church history as a memorial of unselfish love and devotion. To learn who the person was who bestowed such a selfless act, read the following Bible passages, then discuss the lessons to be learned about this blessed disciple of Christ.

John 12:1-8 “Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples,

Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, 'Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?' This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, 'Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.'"

Matthew 26:6-13 "...For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her."



Pictures from the Perfume

1. The perfume which Mary sacrificed was very expensive—300 denarii was a whole year's wage. So, it was a costly sacrifice. Often times we can sacrifice little things, but rarely can we offer something very, very precious to us. Can you think of examples of both?
2. The perfume was in an *alabaster box*—alabaster is a stone. What in us is compared to a stone? We must learn to break the seals on our stony hearts and let the sweet perfume of love, peace, joy, patience, sympathy and all the fruits of the spirit pour out to others. Discuss Jeremiah 31:33. "*But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*"
3. It was the custom to anoint kings, emperors and other very wealthy people with expensive perfumes at their burials. Mary

knew that Jesus was the *King of kings* and wanted to do something special for him to prepare him for his coming burial. Jesus had told all of his disciples of his coming death. Did they pay attention to his directions? How well do we really listen to our friends?

What if Mary had waited until after Jesus died to give him this gift? Then she would not have heard— *“Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.”* (Matthew 26:13) What is a memorial?

4. The perfume saturated Jesus hair and covered his feet. It also saturated Mary’s hair and the room. This shows us how giving up something to another can sometimes mean a blessing in return to us and also a blessing to others near by. Discuss the following:

“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” Proverbs 11:24-25

“But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.” 1 Corinthians 11:15

“God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

5. Using the costly perfume was criticized by Judas. He had a selfish spirit. Just like the perfume, this negativity affected others in the room. He spoiled the sweet fragrance for a moment, but Jesus rebuked him. List the rules you should follow before you criticize... Should we ever criticize anyone in front of others? Discuss Matthew 7:3-5. *“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”* (See also Matthew 18:15-17)

6. Even though using her perfume was praised by Jesus, how do you think Mary felt after everyone criticized her? How do

you think she felt after Jesus showed his appreciation for her sacrifice? What can we learn from this?

Discuss Proverbs 25:11. *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”*

7. Mary’s sacrifice was an outgrowth from a *long developed practice* of doing good to others. What does this say of Judas’ selfish response that evening? What can we learn from this?

Discuss Romans 2:6-10. *“God will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation... But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good...”*

8. Matthew 7:16-20 states: *“...every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit... Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”*

Although we can not judge the heart of another person, we can judge their actions as being something we would or would not like to follow. The Apostle Paul said, *“Follow me as I also follow Christ.”* Whose fruitage was more Christlike — that of Mary or Judas? Whose example would you rather follow — that of Mary or Judas?

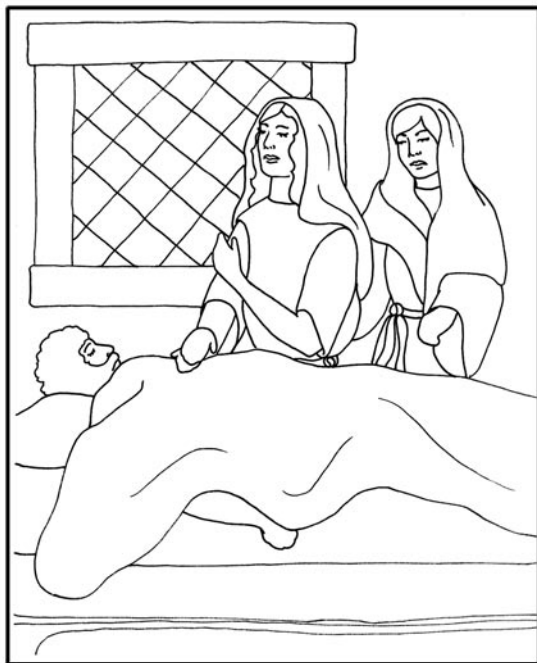
9. The lessons of both Mary and Judas in this event have been told now for more than 2,000 years. How do we want to be remembered? Discuss 1 Thessalonians 1:3. *“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father...”*

Where is Mary now? Read Revelation 14:13: *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”*

If Mary was found faithful and is now in heaven with her Master, do you believe that she is continuing to do good?

Learn more about Mary, the beloved disciple of Christ...

John 11:1-44 *“Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, ‘Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick...’ Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus...*



“These things said he [Jesus]... ‘Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.’ Then said his disciples, ‘Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.’ Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead...’

“Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already... And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother...

*“Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, ‘Where have ye laid him?’ They said unto him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ **Jesus wept.***

Then said the Jews, ‘Behold how he loved him!’ And some of them said, ‘Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?’



“Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, ‘Take ye away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, ‘Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.’ Jesus saith unto her, ‘Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?’ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, ‘Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.’ And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth.’ And he that was dead came forth...”

This experience of Mary, Martha and Lazarus is a beautiful illustration of the coming Kingdom, when all who are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God and shall come forth! John 5:28, 29