

Life of Christ

Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet

John 11:54-12:11

Younger Verse

What this woman has done will also be told in memory of her. Mark 14:9 (HCSB)

Older Verse

I assure you: Wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her. Mark 14:9 (HCSB)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Have you ever walked away from trouble? Maybe you knew that you were close to getting into a fight or maybe things were happening that you knew you did not need to be a part of. When you have gotten into trouble, do you think that if you had known exactly what would happen you might have walked away instead of hanging around?

Well, we talked last week about the trouble that the Pharisees, the Jewish leaders, were trying to make for Jesus. They had decided it would be better to kill Him than to lose the power they had with the Roman government. So, from that day on, they looked for Jesus in order to arrest Him and have Him killed. Do you remember, though, that Jesus knew why He came to earth, why He was born in a manger? He came to die. So, why didn't Jesus just let the Pharisees arrest Him? Jesus also knew when the time was right. Jesus knew it wasn't time for Him to die yet, so He didn't walk around in public anymore. He even left the city of Jerusalem for a while.

While Jesus was away from Jerusalem, He decided to visit with His friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus! It was six days before the Passover was to be celebrated in Jerusalem. The Passover is when the Jewish people remember God saving them from slavery in Egypt. While Jesus was visiting His friends, a dinner was given for Him. Martha served the meal and Jesus sat at the table with Lazarus. While they were there, Mary, Martha and Lazarus' sister, sat at Jesus' feet. Mary did something very unusual, but very beautiful. Mary had a bottle with her and in that bottle was a perfume called "nard." This perfume was very expensive. Rather than saving this perfume for use when she went to parties or weddings, Mary poured all of her expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. Have you ever used perfume on your feet? I haven't. But that is

Lesson Goals

To remember Mary's gift to Jesus.

To see the contrast between Mary's selflessness in giving an expensive gift to Jesus, and Judas' selfishness by thinking only of himself.

exactly what Mary did. Mary rubbed, or anointed, Jesus' feet with that wonderful perfume. Then Mary leaned over, took her hair in her hands and wiped Jesus' feet with her hair. Mary did the job of a servant by sitting at Jesus' feet and wiping them. She had a heart to serve Him. But Mary also did something else. Anointing was normally done to kings or very important people. Mary knew that Jesus was important and so, she anointed Him. The entire house smelled like perfume.

Wouldn't you think, that at that point in the evening, everyone would be happy and relaxed and focused on Jesus? Unfortunately, not everyone was. Someone did not like what Mary had just done. That someone was one of the people closest to Jesus. It was one of the twelve men that walked with Him and talked with Him and learned from Him day after day. That person was Judas. All Judas could think about, when Mary anointed Jesus' feet, was money. Judas spoke up. "Why didn't you sell this perfume for three hundred denarii and give the money to the poor?" Three hundred denarii? How much is that? Was it a lot of money? It was a huge amount of money during that time! When most people worked, they would earn one coin for a whole day's work. So if one denarius was a day's wage, six denarii would be a week's pay (with the Sabbath day free from work). And if six denarii was a week's pay, 26 denarii would be the pay for a month's work and 300 denarii would be almost a year's worth of money! Judas knew how much this perfume was worth! But the Bible tells us that Judas wasn't really concerned about the poor. Judas was already planning to betray Jesus and he was a thief! Judas was the disciple who took care of the money box and he used to take money from it. Judas would have had access to more money if Mary had sold her perfume!

Jesus spoke up for Mary. Jesus told them that there would always be poor people to care for. He also told them that He would not be around much longer. What Mary had done by anointing Jesus was to get Him ready to do what He came for - to die. Jesus even made a promise. Jesus said that everywhere the good news of His death in our place was told, that Mary's beautiful gift would be remembered and shared. Do you know, as Mary did, that Jesus came to die for you? Or are you like Judas, thinking about things instead of Jesus? Will you choose Jesus today? Will you put Jesus before money or toys or clothes or any other thing? You will be glad you did! He loves you enough to have died for you!

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Using yellow ribbon and a fine tip, felt tip pen, write the memory verse on the ribbon. Cut the ribbon and tie one around each student's finger as a "reminder" of what a beautiful thing Mary did for Jesus.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 27
The Crowd Praises Jesus
John 12:12-19

Preschool Lesson

A Special Meal for Jesus

Sing: to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”

Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Lazarus, Lazarus,
Mary, Martha, Lazarus, They were Jesus’ friends.

Jesus ate a meal with them, meal with them, meal with them,
Jesus at a meal with them and Martha served them all.

Mary had a little jar, little jar, little jar,
Mary had a little jar, it cost her very much.

She poured it all upon His feet, upon His feet, upon His feet,
She poured it all upon His feet, and wiped it with her hair.

Teach: One day, some people made a very special meal for Jesus. Jesus’ friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus, were there. Jesus’ other friends were there - the men who walked with Him, talked with Him and learned from Him. Martha was serving the food to Jesus and His friends. Lazarus was sitting at the table and eating with Jesus. We do not know what kind of food they ate and we do not know if any other important people were there. So, what made this such a special meal?

While they were in the house where they had eaten, Mary came up to Jesus. Mary was Martha and Lazarus’ sister. Mary came and sat at Jesus’ feet. Mary took out a beautiful, little jar. Then Mary took the stopper out of the jar. A beautiful smell came from Mary’s jar! But Mary did not put the perfume on herself. Mary took that beautiful smelling perfume and poured it out—all over Jesus’ feet. She rubbed the perfume in. Then Mary started drying Jesus’ feet with her long hair. The whole house smelled wonderful. The smell of Mary’s perfume was in every room.

Mary did a beautiful thing for Jesus. She did not just wash Jesus’ feet like a servant would. She rubbed His feet with her beautiful perfume. If Jesus were in your home, what would you do for Him?

Pray: Thank you, Jesus, for being my friend.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- “. . . and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” Before Bible study, you might want to scent your study area. A strong potpourri, scents that work through electrical outlets, gel scents, etc. would all work well. Your students will then have an idea of how the house might have smelled when Mary anointed Jesus.
- Have your students draw a picture of what they would do for Jesus if He were visiting in their homes.
- Make an origami house. Talk about the special time (probably the last) that Jesus had with His friends.
- Make perfumed oil by scenting baby oil with potpourri.
- Make scented feet pictures. You will need construction paper, paint and perfume. Pour paint into a flat, shallow pan. Paint feet onto construction paper by having students form fists and then dipping the bottom-side of their fists into paint. Press painted fists onto construction paper. Then, with the tip of their fingers dipped into paint as well, paint toes onto the painted foot. Print the Bible verse on the bottom of each page.
- “Because of this plot against him, Jesus stopped going around in public.” Play “Hide and Seek” with your students.
- Play “Who Stole the Cookie from the Cookie Jar” adapting for the story, i.e. “Who Stole the Money from the Money Box.”
- Sing “Come and Go With Me,” “Jesus in the Morning” with verses “Serve Him” and “Share Him,” “Seek ye First,” “I’m Yours, Lord,” or “Shake a Friend’s Hand.”
- For older students: Talk about the difference between Mary’s selflessness and Judas’ selfishness.