

Unit 31, Session 2: Jesus Was Anointed

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8

Christ Connection:

Preschool: Mary did the right thing by pouring expensive oil on Jesus. She worshiped Him. Jesus deserves to be worshiped. Jesus knew that He was going to die to rescue people from sin. Then He would be buried, and, on the third day, He would rise from the dead.

Kids: Pouring the very expensive oil on Jesus was not a waste; it was worship. By allowing Mary to anoint Him, Jesus showed that He is more valuable than anything. Jesus knew He would soon die for sinners, be buried, and rise from the dead on the third day.

Adult Connection Point: As Mary's pouring of the oil demonstrates, worship is an appropriate response to Jesus, for He is God incarnate. Since in Him the fullness of God dwells bodily (Col. 2:9), the image of temple serves as quite the accurate image to describe Him. As the Son of God said, "Something greater than the temple is here!" (Matt. 12:6). Jesus Christ Himself is the temple of God. He is the union of divinity and humanity; He is where God and man meet. No longer was man to meet God in a place but rather in a Person. The temple was the sanctioned place of worship for God's people during the period of the Mosaic covenant (i.e., the Old Testament law), but as Jesus told the woman at the well, a new time has dawned where God's people are to worship Him in Spirit and truth from any location (John 4:21-24). We as the church are God's new temple in Christ and in us dwells the Holy Spirit. Hence, everywhere we go is in a real sense holy ground and everything we do necessarily involves our worship of the triune God because we ourselves are collectively and individually the temple of Yahweh.

In the Old Testament, the temple referred to a place. In the New Testament, the temple refers to a people. Christ is the foundation of this sanctuary where the Spirit lives. As Christians, we are being built together as God's residence—a beacon of light and hope to the world. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—the center of the good news of God's kingdom—stands as the only foundation that will withstand the shifts and storms of life. If our lives are to be built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, then the same should be true of our churches. After all, the church itself is the pillar and foundation of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).

This reality has deep implications for a local church's particular philosophy and practice—from preaching to teaching, groups, praying, eating, and singing. It gives meaning to our traditions and rituals and habits and infuses them with purpose and a filter by which all is to be assessed. Unless founded upon the person and work of Jesus Christ, all of our potlucks and prayer meetings and worship services will be pointless—like chaff that simply drifts away.

Without the centrality of the person and work of Jesus, our churches will be unable to stand and weather the cultural currents or tests of time. Unless we are grounded in the reality of the gospel, we offer nothing distinct to the world around us.

Materials: perfume or cologne bottle

Carefully pass the opened bottle of perfume around to each family member and allow them to smell. Guide your children to relate the perfume to this week's Bible story. Include important details or points your kids may have left out.

Ask: "What did Mary do to Jesus and what was the cost of her sacrifice?"

Recall how Mary knelt down next to Jesus, broke the alabaster jar then poured the very expensive oil on Jesus' head. The cost of the oil was estimated at a year's worth of salary.

Ask: "Why were the others upset at Mary's action?"

Remind your kids that Judas Iscariot didn't care about the poor because in fact he was a thief. The others did not understand that Mary's action was poured out on Jesus in love and worship not as an attempt to waste the perfume or take away from the poor. By pouring the entire jar, she was showing the others that Jesus is more valuable than anything on earth. Soon after this Jesus died on the cross.

Think of some ways you could worship Jesus this week. Maybe attend worship services together as a family. Consider deferring a purchase and giving the amount to your church or a ministry. End your time singing a worship song from the curriculum.

Pray, thanking God for showing us that Jesus is more valuable than anything. Ask Him to show your family ways to worship Him this week.