



THE *Last*
Week

ATONEMENT
AND RESURRECTION



BARRETT A. SLADE

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1

TO JERUSALEM FOR PASSOVER

JOHN 11:55–57

Location: Jerusalem Region

Summary

Approximately three years after the beginning of His ministry and a week before the Feast of the Passover,² the Lord traveled to Jerusalem³ for this purification⁴ event, an important tradition of the people. The chief priests and Pharisees⁵ expected the Savior to go to Jerusalem to participate in this event, and it was at this time while in the temple⁶ that they began to conspire on how they might “take” Him. Luke 11 provides some insight into the reason they hated Him and sought to take His life. The Lord was quite bold in telling the Pharisees that they were hypocrites because of their strict obedience to outward “ceremonial rules” but inward were not pure in heart. They were very prideful and offended by the word of the Lord. This led to great hatred and resentment toward Him; therefore, they sought ways to “catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him” (Luke 11:53–54).

JOHN 11:55–57

55 And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

56 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast?

57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

2

THE SIXTH DAY BEFORE PASSOVER

JOHN 12:1

Location: Bethany

Summary

Six days before the Passover feast, the Savior went to Bethany,⁷ where Lazarus⁸ was raised from the dead.

JOHN 12:1

1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

3

MARY ANOINTS JESUS

MATTHEW 26:6–13; MARK 14:3–9;
JOHN 12:2–8

Location: Bethany

Summary

Six days prior to the Passover feast, the Lord arrived in Bethany (about two miles east of Jerusalem) to the house of Simon the leper,⁹ who was the brother of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. These were close friends and associates of the Lord. As He sat eating meat (or dinner), Mary¹⁰ poured spikenard¹¹ from an alabaster box¹² on the Lord's head and feet and rubbed His feet with her hair. This ointment was a very precious oil that was worth three hundred pence, the equivalent to a man's wages for one year,¹³ and was generally only used on very sacred occasions, such as burial.¹⁴ Some of the disciples, including the Apostle Judas Iscariot,¹⁵ complained that Mary's actions were inappropriate, but the Lord rebuked them. This experience teaches us two fundamental principles: 1) some things are more important than others;¹⁶ and 2) having divine discernment is essential in understanding the difference.

In this case, Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, was sensitive to the

Spirit. She knew that Jesus was the Savior and that He would soon fulfill His divine mission by sacrificing Himself for each of us. Perhaps she understood before anyone else that the Savior would shed His blood for each of us, because the alabaster box contained precious ointment or oil that was generally reserved for the burial of loved ones.

MATTHEW 26:6–13

6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper,

7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, [Disciples] **To what purpose is this waste?**

9 **For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.**

10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, [Jesus] **Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.**

11 **For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.**

12 **For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.**

13 **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.**

MARK 14:3–9

3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

4 And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, [Disciples] **Why was this waste of the ointment made?**

5 **For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.**

6 And Jesus said, [Jesus] **Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.**

7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

JOHN 12:2-8

2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

3 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.

4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

5 [Judas Iscariot] **Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?**

6 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.

7 Then said Jesus, [Jesus] **Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.**

8 **For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.**

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