

Message #91**Matthew 26:1-16**

In Jesus' case, He was not guilty of anything and He did not deserve to die; but He was going to die for our sin. This is one of the saddest passages pertaining to Jesus Christ, because it shows that no one who was near Him supported Him. Now I want you to carefully notice **verses 1-2**; when Jesus had finished the Olivet Discourse, which told His disciples about His glorious second coming, He decides to tell them about the terrible ending to His first coming. Jesus said to them the Passover will be in two days and He would be delivered up for crucifixion. The passive voice of the verb "delivered up" means Jesus would be the recipient of this terrible action.

TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY PERSON WHO REALLY RESPONDED PROPERLY TO HIM WAS A WOMAN NAMED MARY, FROM BETHANY.

REACTION #1 – The reaction of the Jewish leadership. **26:3-5**

I want you to notice the phrase "chief priests and the elders of the people." This phrase indicates that these were the people's choice, not God's. The nation Israel was being governed by those who were popular with people, not those who were telling the truth of God. These were the leaders who should have been exalting Christ as King. These are the leaders who should have been worshipping Jesus and crowning Him King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But instead, they are plotting how to kill Him. These leaders had gathered in the court of the High Priest Caiaphas, the son-in-law of Annas, for the purpose of plotting how they might kill Jesus Christ. The word "stealth" (v. 4) is one that means to bait a snare in order to craftily trap something in a very deceitful way (Smith, p. 120). No matter how these leaders reacted, God was still sovereign. God was still the one in charge. He was the one sovereignly orchestrating the death of His only Son.

REACTION #2 – The reaction of Mary. **26:6-7**

Jesus was in Bethany, two miles outside of Jerusalem, in the home of Simon the leper. This is the King who should have been reigning from His temple, but he is spending some of His final hours in the home of a leper. At this meal were also Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead, and Martha and Mary. While He was at this meal, a woman came to Jesus with a bottle of very expensive perfume. Mark says the value of it was over 300 denarii (Mark 14:5), which means it was worth about one year's worth of wages. The woman broke the bottle and poured its contents on Jesus' head. The woman's name is Mary (John 12:3). One thing we know about Mary, from Luke, is that she was a very serious student of the Word of God; in fact, Jesus had commended her for loving God's Word (Luke 10:39). The reason this is important is because Mary probably really understood the moment. She knew what was about to happen to Jesus Christ. She got it. She understood who Christ was and what was about to take place and that prompted her to anoint Him with oil. In fact, Jesus says she was motivated by knowledge that He would die and be buried (**26:12**). She did this for Him, not for the ministry, not for a program; she did this for Him. She wanted Jesus to know she loved Him and adored Him.

Mark says it was a beautiful flask which was broken and she poured the oil lavishly on His head and John says she anointed His feet and wiped them with her hair. John adds the whole house was filled with the beautiful fragrance (12:3).

REACTION #3 – The reaction of the disciples. **26:8-9**

Now I want you to notice how the disciples responded to this—instead of praising God for her faithfulness, they are angry with her. They think this is a waste. They think the perfume could have been sold and put to better use. They couldn't understand why someone would do such a costly thing for Jesus Himself. It becomes obvious that Judas was the key spokesperson in this negative response (John 12:4-5). He says this could have been sold and given to the poor. But John 12:6 says he wasn't interested in the poor; he was an embezzling, lying thief.

In **verses 10-13**, Jesus responds to His own disciples and in this text, the emphatic use of the pronoun “me” is used. Jesus wants to know why are they hassling her? He makes a series of statements which should have brought every one of these disciples to their knees:

(Statement #1) - This woman did something good for me personally. **26:10b**

(Statement #2) - You always have the poor physically with you. **26:11a**

(Statement #3) - You will not always have Me physically with you. **26:11b**

(Statement #4) - This woman did this to prepare Me for burial. **26:12**

(Statement #5) - This woman will be remembered whenever this Gospel is preached. **26:13**

Whenever Matthew's kingdom Gospel is preached, it will be mentioned that just before Christ's death, there was a woman who anointed Him as King with very expensive oil. Now of course to logistically get to this point in Matthew, one must come to chapter 26, in Mark to chapter 14, and in John chapter 12. Preaching the Gospel means going through the entire book and getting all of it. Dr. C. I. Scofield says that Mary was the only person who really comprehended the thrice repeated announcement of Christ's coming death and resurrection (*Reference Bible*, p. 1038).

REACTION #4 – The reaction of Judas. **26:14-16**

Judas went to the religious leaders and asked what they would give him to betray Christ. He was informed that they would give him thirty pieces of silver, and from that moment on he began looking for an opportunity to betray Christ.

What irony. He has just come from an episode in which a woman has anointed Christ with oil worth about a year's wages and he sells out Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, about five weeks' worth of work.

This is the nonsense that is surrounding Jesus Christ. This is what He was facing. Of all people surrounding the Lord, the only one who really knew the truth was a woman named Mary!