

THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION

A **JOURNAL** FOR THE JOURNEY



WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

MARK 14:1-11

DAY 20 – MON 24 MARCH

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. [Verse 3]

What a strange verse! Jesus is in Bethany, very close to Jerusalem, in the house of Simon the Leper, reported by some to be the father of Mary, Martha and Lazarus whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So he is communing with a leper, someone who would have been ostracised by society at that time. Perhaps Jesus had healed Simon as well as Lazarus?

To add to the intrigue, a woman comes into the room and breaks a large jar of Chanel No. 5 – or its first century equivalent worth today around £4,000 – and pours it over Jesus' head! The woman – cited as Mary in John's gospel – is so overwhelmed by her love for Jesus that she expresses that love in a conspicuous, extravagant and somewhat outrageous way, using a treasured gift.

Notes

Prayer: *Lord, may we know the depth of your love for us so deeply that it inspires us to exuberant praise and worship, either inwardly or outwardly.*

A.K.



DAY 21 – TUES 25 MARCH

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. [Verses 4–5]

Ouch! Such critical words must have deeply hurt Mary, a sensitive and insightful woman. Not only was she being reprimanded for her actions, but the very essence of her intentions – to honour and bless Jesus – was being belittled.

We aren't given any clues as to who uttered the scathing words (though the apostle John cites Judas), but whoever they were they certainly missed the point! They missed the fact that this beautiful and unique expression of gratitude towards Jesus was far more important *at that moment of time* than attending to the needs of others.

What's more – we sense the murmurs of hypocrisy as it is highly unlikely that they themselves would have sold the perfume in a humanitarian act of kindness.

So don't be discouraged when others belittle the way you express your worship to Jesus – they too may be missing the point!

Notes

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for the freedom to demonstrate our love for you. May we acknowledge the freedom of others to do the same.*
A.K.

DAY 22 – WED 26 MARCH

'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. [Verses 6, 7]

Quickly discerning Mary's motives, Jesus immediately comes to her defence. But he does much more than that – he challenges Mary's detractors, taking them at their word and declaring that there will be plenty of time for them to minister to the poor.

So Jesus encourages us to imitate Mary – by giving him his rightful place in our lives – and to go and help the poor. Simple as that.

And it is reminiscent of what Jesus' own brother, James, says: *'Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.'*

No compromise there, then!

Notes

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, guided by your Holy Spirit, may we give you the honour you deserve and demonstrate active love and merciful compassion to those in need.*
A.K.

DAY 23 – THURS 27 MARCH

'She did what she could.' [Verse 8]

Mary did what she could. That's a powerful statement in its simplicity and starkness. So often, worldly thinking ensnares us by its allure and charm as we strive to find significance through the acquisition of power and identity. We're in good company though – the disciples constantly argued about who was the greatest among them and who would be at Jesus' side in glory. Jesus' reply: *'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'*

Mary gave the most precious gift she had in an act of humility to bless the one who was about to go to the cross in a supreme act of servanthood for the salvation of the world.

Mary did what she could. *'We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us'* [Rom 12:6] and those gifts are to be used in humble service to Jesus and to others.

Notes

Prayer: *May we honour Mary's selflessness as we use the gifts given by the Father in service to the Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.*
A.K.

DAY 24 – FRI 28 MARCH

'She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.' [Verse 8]

This must have been quite a shock to the gathering who seemingly had no idea of the symbolism of Mary's actions. You can just imagine the stunned silence that surely followed.

Of course, Jesus had told his disciples more than once that he would be given over to the authorities, killed and raised from the dead, but they seemed to be in denial – or very forgetful. Yet again, Jesus is alluding to his imminent death and to the subsequent preparation of his body, an ancient Jewish tradition wherein the corpse is bound in linen cloths infused with spices and oils. Nard – the name of the lavender-like perfume with which Mary had just anointed Jesus – was often used in the burial process as the Jews believed it eased the transition from life to death.

As we reflect on Mary's anointing of Jesus – which is the symbolic transition from life to death – may we remember that Jesus' anointing of each one of us through his work of salvation is symbolic of our transition from death to everlasting life.

Notes

Prayer: *Thank you, Heavenly father, that you are the one 'who makes [us] stand firm in Christ ... anoints us and sets his seal of ownership on us'* [1 Corinthians 1:21, 22].
A.K.



ACTIVITY CALENDAR



DAY 25 – SAT 29 MARCH

'Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

[Verse 9]

As we have seen, the disciples let worldly thinking seep into their minds and mar their relationships.

They recognised Jesus as the Messiah, but they completely misunderstood the role of the Messiah, many of them seeing Christ as a quasi-political figure who would use might and power to overthrow the Romans, the oppressors of the Jews.

Mary recognised Jesus as the Messiah, but she believed what he had been saying about his God-given calling and grasped that Christ would take a journey of pain, humiliation and self-sacrifice; that Christ would defy the laws of nature and rise from the dead. And it was because Mary realised that Christ was about to begin that journey towards death and resurrection that she responded in the way she did.

We recognise Jesus as the Messiah, but our response to him depends on our view of him.

Notes

Prayer: *May we – as Christ-followers – see – like Mary – the Messiah who eschewed worldly power, embodying instead the paschal lamb 'who takes away the sins of the world'.*
A.K.

DAY 26 – SUN 30 MARCH

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over. [Verses 10, 11]

Unlike Mary, Judas doesn't revere Jesus. He betrays him.

What a contrast between two people; two people who had been in Jesus' company, heard him preach, seen him raise Lazarus from the dead, witnessed him cast out demons, watched him take on the religious authorities.

Two people whose responses couldn't be so different.

In the end, it was down to choice. Judas chose to collaborate with those who wanted Jesus dead, those who regarded the Christ-figure as far too dangerous for their liking. Yet Judas was *'one of the Twelve'*. What went wrong? What led a man who once gave allegiance to the Lord to capitulate to the Christ-haters?

Judas's motives are unclear, but just like the other disciples he disowned Jesus when the going got tough.

When the going gets tough what do we do?

Notes

Prayer: *Even when we let you down 'Mercy and truth meet together; Righteousness and peace kiss each other' [Psalm 85:10] and your love enfolds us, bringing us back into relationship with you.*
A.K.



Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

A BIG THANK YOU...

... to all who gave up their time to create this amazing booklet – Gary & Helen Spicer; Dave Boden; Amanda Kay; Rae Ann Coleman; Mike & Jean Adkins and Chris & Tina Spicer. A special thanks goes to Amanda Kay for her proofreading and copy-editing expertise and to Hannah Reid for the layout and graphics.

Unless otherwise indicated, scriptures are taken from The Holy Bible: New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. New Living, NLT, and the New Living Translation logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from the English Standard Version, ® Copyright © 2001, 2002, 2007 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good New Publishers. All rights reserved.

Scripture mark MSG are taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.



Happy
Easter

TO & FROM EVERYONE IN
THE MOSAIC FAMILY

THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Wednesday, 5th March

7:30 - 9pm

@ The Hope Centre

Pick up a copy
of the **The Journal for
the Journey**

ALL CHURCH PRAYER GATHERINGS

Tuesday, 11th March

Tuesday, 18th March

Tuesday, 25th March

Tuesday, 1st April

Tuesday, 8th April

7:30 - 8:30pm

@ The Hope Centre

Don't forget your
Activity Calendar

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, 18th April

7:30 @ The Hope Centre

JOINT EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, 20th April

10:30 am

@ Grace Academy

© Mosaic Church 2014



For more information
call 024 7663 3500
www.mosaicchurch.co.uk

