



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for February 28, 2010
Released on Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

"A Special Act of Love"

Lesson Text: Matthew 26:6-13

Background Scripture: Matthew 26:6-13

Memory Verse: "In that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial" (Matthew 26:12).

Matthew 26:3-16

3 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,
4 And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.
5 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.
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, 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, 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.
14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,
15 And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.
16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

TEACHER'S NOTES

Again it will be helpful to read the parallel accounts of the anointing of Jesus in Bethany. Mark 14:3-9 and John 12:1-8 both include important details that Matthew does not mention. Only John, for example, makes it clear that the woman was Mary of Bethany and not the unnamed woman who anointed Jesus on a similar occasion (Luke 7:37-38).

Mary gave Jesus a precious gift. The lesson will teach the children that we have something highly valuable to give Him. That gift is our very selves. Without pressuring, encourage them to do this.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that the most valuable gift the children can give to Jesus is them-selves, and encourage that giving.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Mary gave the best she had to Jesus.
2. Jesus did not consider what was given Him to be a waste but commended Mary for her gift.
3. The most valuable gift we can give Jesus is ourselves.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a picture of Mary and Martha.

For Telling the Lesson, you will need four more pictures: Jesus and others at the table, Mary, Mary anointing Jesus, and a Bible-time tomb.

For Helping to Remember, for each student make a perfume vial on white construction paper by drawing around a 4-inch dish to make a circle and drawing along both sides of a ruler to make a 2-inch spout. Provide crayons and safety scissors (blunt tip).

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Many boys are named John today. Many girls are named Mary. It was that way in Bible times too. Jesus' mother was a Mary. Two friends of Jesus were sisters named Mary and Martha. (Show Mary and Martha.)

One day Jesus did something extra special for those sisters. Their brother Lazarus had died, and Jesus just spoke and made him alive again. Do you think the sisters would ever forget that? Never.

Mary wanted to do something that would show Jesus how special she thought He was. He had been so good to her. What do you suppose she did?

TELLING THE LESSON

Jesus and His helpers were in the town where Mary and Martha lived. It was down the road and not far from the big city of Jerusalem. They had all been invited to somebody's house for dinner.

When dinnertime came, Jesus and His friends gathered around the table. (Show Jesus and others at the table.) Lazarus, the brother Jesus had made alive again, was there too (cf. John 12:2). (Point out one to represent Lazarus.) Martha was helping bring in the food, but Mary was getting ready to do something else. (Show Mary.)

While the men were still eating, Mary came in. She was not carrying food, though. She was carrying a pretty little bottle of sweet-smelling oil, a special kind of perfume. She came up behind Jesus at the table and did something that people sometimes did in those days when they wanted to show that someone was especially important. (Show anointing scene.) Mary took that good-smelling oil and poured it on Jesus' head and on His feet.

Soon everyone in the house could smell it. They knew that perfume was valuable. It had cost a lot of money. You see, Mary loved Jesus. (Show Mary.) She wanted to give Him the best thing she had.

But some of Jesus' friends were very upset. Judas said, "What a waste! That perfume could have been sold for a lot of money and the money given to poor people." Some others were saying the same thing, and they told Mary so.

When Jesus saw what was happening, He said, "Leave her alone. What she did was good. There will always be poor people. You can give to them anytime you want, but you will not always have Me with you."

Then He said a strange thing. He said, "What she has done was to make Me ready to be buried."

In those days when a person died, his friends would wrap him in grave-clothes and pour on sweet-smelling perfumes. Jesus knew that soon He would die for us. Then *His* body would be wrapped up and buried in a grave. (Show tomb.) In a way, He said, Mary was making His body ready even before it was time.

He said one more thing about Mary then. He said, "Wherever the news about Me is told, this thing she did for Me will be told too." And that has happened. Here we are this morning in _____ (name of your town), hearing about what Mary did for Jesus just before He died for us on the cross.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Because Mary loved Jesus, she gave Him the most valuable thing she had, and Jesus was pleased.

Do you love Jesus? What is the best thing you could give Him? The most valuable thing you have that you could give Jesus is yourself.

If you want to, maybe when you go home today, you could do this: Go somewhere all by yourself. Then say, "Lord Jesus, I love You, and I give You everything. I belong to You. Make me the kind of person You want me to be." If you do that and you mean what you say, Jesus will be pleased.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Have the children make the perfume vase as beautiful as they can, and then cut it out. Suggest they show someone what they have made and tell what they have learned.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"In that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial" (Matthew 26:12).

Pouring some very good perfume on Jesus' head and feet was Mary's way of showing how special she thought He was. Jesus thought about how friends put perfumes on the dead bodies of people just before they were buried. He said that Mary, in a way, was doing that even before He died.

PRAYER

Dear God, we want to honor You not with expensive anointing oil, but with the devotion of our lives as we serve in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week we will see how Jonah learns about God's concern for all people. Study Jonah 1:1-3 and 3:1-9.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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Word Search

"A Special Act of Love" Matthew 26:6-13

D N A M O W A N P Y K V J G T
D I L M Z A K F R N J V E O L
Q M S G S X O B E A B K S O P
E V V C P O O R C H G N U D S
F B U R I A L Q I T H G S I E
S G F L K P S D O E Q W M B T
L H V B O N L I U B K O O W S
X A I V R U N E S J N D Y Q A
A Y I P D T O X S Z Y Q O S W
P L B R M D E H C A E R P D N
E F W E O D I Q L U Q A E Q I
V X N A Y M L S G C T R U K N
V T P R Y C E R L B U A U S V
I D A C N S C M O O R H U V D
A M L Q P F M D P W M Q H T Y

ALWAYS

BOX

GOOD

MEMORIAL

POURED

SIMON

WOMAN

BETHANY

BURIAL

JESUS

OINTMENT

PREACHED

SOLD

WORLD

BODY

DISCIPLES

MARY

POOR

PRECIOUS

WASTE

20 words were placed into the puzzle.

Word Search Solution

"A Special Act of Love" Matthew 26:6-13

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D N A M O W + + P Y + + J G +
+ I + + + + + R N + + E O +
+ + S + S X O B E A + + S O +
+ + + C P O O R C H + + U D S
+ B U R I A L + I T + + S I E
+ + + + + P + D O E + + M B T
L + + + + + L I U B + O O + S
+ A + + + + N E S + N D + + A
A + I + + T + + S + Y + + + W
+ L + R M D E H C A E R P D +
+ + W E O D + + + + + E + +
+ + N A Y M L + + + + R + + +
+ T + R Y + E R + + U + + + +
+ + A + + S + M O O + + + + +
+ M + + + + + + P W + + + + +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

ALWAYS (1, 9, SE)
BETHANY (10, 7, N)
BODY (14, 6, SW)
BOX (8, 3, W)
BURIAL (2, 5, E)
DISCIPLES (1, 1, SE)
GOOD (14, 1, S)
JESUS (13, 1, S)
MARY (2, 15, NE)
MEMORIAL (8, 14, NW)
OINTMENT (9, 6, SW)
POOR (5, 4, E)
POURED (9, 15, NE)
PREACHED (13, 10, W)
PRECIOUS (9, 1, S)
SIMON (15, 4, SW)
SOLD (5, 3, SE)
WASTE (15, 9, N)
WOMAN (6, 1, W)
WORLD (10, 15, NW)

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