

Lesson 49 Matthew 26: 6-16 (1) Jesus teaching on how "our actions" declare both our character and destiny

Jesus in Bethany in the house of Simon the Leper

Simon's house was not out of bounds-he must have been healed by the master -but the term "Simon the leper" defined him among those who had known him well. "A woman" came and poured the contents of an alabaster flask of myrrh-very costly myrrh on the head of Jesus as He sat reclining. It is of great interest in a parallel account in John 12 that the woman is named as Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. There also Christ commends her "for keeping the flask" which might well have been used in the funeral preparations of Lazarus' body. She was deeply aware of "another" death coming up in the future-that of Jesus! To Mary the death of Jesus was very precious and she was distressed lest she would not be present when the LORD fell into other hands so she acted when she had opportunity

Disciples wide-eyed

As the disciples watched they were very burdened or annoyed (Greek *αγανακτεω* meaning "very much" burdened) saying, "What is the purpose of this loss? For this myrrh could have made a lot of money and been given to the poor. Now whilst Judas may have been most annoyed Matthew does not absolve himself either.

The perspective of God

Jesus knowing said to them, "Why do you do you cause weariness or do the painful arithmetic (Greek *Παρεχω*) for this woman? For you have the poor always with you, but Me you do not have always. For this woman targeting my body with the myrrh has done this under inspiration for my burying.

The act remembered over all gospel ages

"Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, this which she was inspired to do will have been spoken of, articulated, chatted about for a memorandum or memorial record of her.

Judas withdraws

Then one of the twelve went out. This gesture of objection by Judas may well have related to the failure to net almost a year's wages by a sale. He went to the High priests and said, "What will you do for me, if I deliver Him over to your hands?" Notice the failure to reply in words. The shrewd crooks counted out pieces of silver-"Five-ten-fifteen-twenty" Judas thought it was going tolerably well-"Twenty five- thirty" that's it. And from then onward he sought a good opportunity when he might betray Jesus. All this assumes that the temple guard were being briefed to be at the ready for an instant call day or night. As to Judas' withdrawal John tells us that some disciples thought since "Judas had the bag"[John 13.29] (was a thief and had the bag and bare what was put therein -John 12.6) Jesus had directed him to buy some things for the feast.



From paper to practice.

1 When we compare the narrative of John 12 1-11 we find Jesus' feet were also anointed. Mary moved alongside the Christ and from anointing his head she finished at His feet and wiped the extra *myrrh* off with her hair. She was in this act bonded to Him in His ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (complete)

2 Jesus could declare of Judas, "Better for that man had he not been born". Is there other evidence in this man's earlier conduct of an alternative destiny becoming evident?