

Lesson 8:

Mary Anoints Jesus; Triumphal Entrance

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

John 12:1-15

MEMORY WORK:

Luke 19:10

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I can show Jesus that I love Him in the ways that I worship him.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION:

What are some things you do for people who are special to you? If Jesus were here now, what would you do to show Him that He's special to you? In today's story, one woman and a great crowd did something very special for Jesus..

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Jews who hated Him became even more determined to kill Him. He went to the small town of Ephraim for a while with His disciples (John 11:54). When the time for **Passover** came, Jesus started toward Jerusalem. Knowing that He did not have much time left before His death, Jesus continued to teach and help the sick and needy, often repeating things He had taught before.

Passover: the time when the Jews remembered God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery (when God passed over the doors of the Israelites). It was a feast that lasted seven days.

2. A few days before Passover was to begin, Jesus and His disciples went to the nearby village of Bethany, the hometown of His special friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. A man known as **Simon the leper** provided a special supper (or banquet) for Jesus and the apostles. It was not uncommon for special religious teachers to be invited into someone's home for a banquet in their honor. Lazarus was reclining at the table with the other men and Martha was busy serving, as was her habit (Luke 10:38-42).

NOTE: Regarding Simon the leper (mentioned in Matthew 26:6), Jesus may have healed Simon of his leprosy earlier. He obviously was not a leper at the time of this meal, or he would not have been allowed in his home, surrounded by people. [Simon was a very common name, so the label ("the leper") was added to this one's name to indicate exactly which Simon ate with Jesus.]

1. Martha's sister Mary had prepared a special gift for Jesus. Perhaps Mary understood better than even the disciples the torture and death that awaited Jesus in Jerusalem. (Jesus was crucified as if He were a criminal, with criminals. The bodies of convicted and executed criminals were often buried without any preparation or anointing.) She came into the room where the men were eating, stooped down at Jesus' feet, broke a very expensive alabaster jar of perfume (**spikenard**), and poured it over His feet and head. Mary sat at Jesus' feet, in a room full of men. She let down her hair and wiped His feet with it.

“Nard” (or spikenard): an expensive, rare perfume made from the head of an East Indian plant. A “pound” probably cost a year’s wages!

Mark and Matthew say that Mary anointed “his head,” while John says it was “his feet.” Apparently Mary anointed both Jesus’ head and feet, as is indicated in two reliable manuscripts of the book of John.

2. While some of the apostles grumbled about what a waste this was, the one who objected the most was Judas, who was to betray Jesus—and who had already been stealing from the apostles’ treasury bag. Jesus praised Mary and told the disciples to leave her alone; she was doing what she could to prepare His body for His death. There would always be poor people to help, He told them, but He would not be with them much longer. Mary’s gift and her actions were her way of worshipping Jesus and showing Him her love.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Veils, Footwashing, and the Holy Kiss](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about whether Christians are commanded to engage in those practices, which are mentioned in Scripture.

NOTE: Mary’s special gift is mentioned in Mark, Matthew, and John. The woman who made a similar gift, as recorded in Luke 7:37-39, is not the same woman, though there are some similarities.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

- Betty Lukens’ felt pieces
- ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
- Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. Two files go with this lesson: “08A” is about Mary, “08B” is Jesus riding into Jerusalem
- Perfume or good smelling lotion, palm branches

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- On a wall or board in the classroom, have a large picture of “Jesus.” Above the picture, write the words, “I can show Jesus that I love Him.” Make enough heart cutouts for each child in the class. Let the children tell you things they can do to show Jesus they love Him (include things we do in worship). Write them on the hearts and tape them around the picture of Jesus. Heart and Jesus Cutouts are in lesson files.
- Let students smell different perfumes or scented lotions. Be aware that some people are very sensitive to smells. Check with parents first.
- Perfume jars – Spray Crayola Air-Dry Clay with body mist. Show the students how to work it into a jar shape. This will need to be left in the classroom to dry and can be picked up Wed. night.
- Jigsaw Puzzle – Make copies on cardstock. Let the students cut along the green dotted lines. Send home in a Ziploc bags.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday's lesson. (See Review Questions for example questions.)
2. On the Sunday before His death, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey colt. This was not only a sign of humility, but also a fulfillment of a well-known Messianic prophecy (Zechariah 9:9). Crowds of people, in the city for the Passover, came out to see Jesus. They spread their garments on the road, which was one way to express respect to Jesus. They waved palm branches which "they had cut from the fields" (Mark 11:8) on the road from Bethany to Jerusalem, as if they were greeting a king returning from a triumphant battle. The crowd cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel," which is a quote from Psalm 118:26.
3. If Jesus came to your town would you want to go see Him? What if He came to visit you at your house? Would you find some way to tell Him that you love Him? That's what Mary did with her expensive gift and that's what the crowd did with their palm branches and praise. What are some ways that we can show Jesus that we love Him? [We show Jesus that we love Him by obeying Him in everything we do (John 14:15)—by worshipping Him correctly, helping others, trying not to sin, etc.]

"Hosanna" means "Save now." The reference to "the son of David" or "the king of Israel" (from Psalm 118) makes it clear that the crowd believed Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Sticker Scene – Make Oriental Trading Sticker Scene. Save to add to the student's NT Binder
- Cut a 9" x 12" piece of green construction paper in half lengthwise. Cut shapes of palm branches and help children "fringe" each branch with scissors. Write along the edge of the branches: "I can show Jesus that I love Him." Let one child ride a stick horse (donkey) while the other children wave palm branches.
- Hand Branches – Trace the students hands onto green construction paper and cut out. Glue onto craft stick to make a branch



Review Questions

1. What feast was going on at the time?
 - a. The feast of the Passover
2. In whose house were they eating?
 - a. Simon the leper
3. What was the Passover about?
 - a. Remembering the time when God passed over marked houses in Egypt
4. What did Mary do for Jesus?
 - a. She poured very expensive perfume on His head and feet, and then wiped His feet with her hair.
5. How did the disciples respond to her actions?
 - a. Some of them, especially Judas, complained that the perfume could have been sold and given to the poor.
6. Why did Judas really want to sell the perfume?
 - a. So he could steal some of the profits from the treasury of the disciples
7. When did Jesus enter Jerusalem?
 - a. The Sunday before He died
8. How did Jesus enter the city?
 - a. Riding on a donkey
9. What did the people do when Jesus entered Jerusalem?
 - a. Laid palm branches and clothing on the ground and cried out “Hosanna to the Son of David,” and “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

