



Lesson 50 – The Feast at Simon's House

Based on Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-11; Luke 7:36-50; John 11:55-57; John 12:1-11.

- 1) Where does our lesson begin today?

John 12:1 Then Jesus six days before the _____ came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

Jesus had made his final push to go to Jerusalem and to the Passover where He would make Himself the Sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. He stopped in Bethany at the house of Lazarus to stay as was His custom when He was in the area.

The crowds of travelers who passed on to the city spread the tidings that He was on His way to Jerusalem, and that He would rest over the Sabbath at Bethany. Among the people there was great enthusiasm. Many flocked to Bethany, some out of sympathy with Jesus, and others from curiosity to see one who had been raised from the dead.

- 2) What did Lazarus have to say about the time he was dead?

Ecclesiastes 9:5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know _____ thing...

Many expected to hear from Lazarus a wonderful account of scenes witnessed after death. They were surprised that he told them nothing. He had nothing of this kind to tell.

Lazarus did have a wonderful testimony to bear in regard to the work of Christ. He had been raised from the dead for this purpose. With assurance and power, he declared that Jesus was the Son of God.

- 3) What were the religious leaders doing in Jerusalem at the time?

Matthew 26:3-5 Then assembled together the chief _____, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called _____, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an _____ among the people.

- 4) What was the word on the street about Jesus?

John 11:56-57 Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the _____, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should _____ it, that they might take him.

Since the raising of Lazarus, the sympathies of the people were so fully with Christ that it would be dangerous to seize upon Him openly. So, the authorities determined to take Him secretly and carry on the trial as quietly as possible. They hoped that when His condemnation became known, the fickle tide of public opinion would set in their favor.

Thus, they proposed to destroy Jesus. But so long as Lazarus lived, the priests and rabbis knew that they were not secure. The very existence of a man who had been four days in the grave, and who had been restored by a word from Jesus, would sooner or later cause a reaction. The people would be avenged on their leaders for taking the life of One who could perform such a miracle. The Sanhedrin therefore decided that Lazarus also must die.

- 5) Where was Jesus just a few days before Palm Sunday?

Mathew 26:6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of _____ the leper,



6) What was Simon's affiliation?

Luke 7:36 And one of the _____ desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

7) Who else was there?

John 12:2 There they made him a supper; and _____ served: but _____ was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Jesus and His friends were invited to Simon's feast. At the table, the Saviour sat with Simon, whom He had cured of a loathsome disease, on one side, and Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, on the other. Martha served at the table, but Mary was earnestly listening to every word from the lips of Jesus. In His mercy, Jesus had pardoned her sins, He had called forth her beloved brother from the grave, and Mary's heart was filled with gratitude.

8) What did Mary do?

Luke 7:37-38 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's _____, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his _____ with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

She had heard Jesus speak of His approaching death, and in her deep love and sorrow she had longed to show Him honor. At great personal sacrifice she had purchased an alabaster box of "**ointment of spikenard, very costly**," with which to anoint His body. But now many were declaring that He was about to be crowned king. Her grief was turned to joy, and she was eager to be first in honoring her Lord. Breaking her box of ointment, she poured its contents upon the head and feet of Jesus; then, as she knelt weeping, moistening them with her tears, she wiped His feet with her long, flowing hair.

9) What did Judas and the Disciples have to say about it?

John 12:4-6 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should _____ him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a _____, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

10) What did Simon the Leper have to say about it?

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what _____ of _____ this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Mary heard the words of criticism. Her heart trembled within her. She feared that her sister would reproach her for extravagance. The Master, too, might think her improvident. Without apology or excuse she was about to shrink away, when the voice of her Lord was heard...

Improvident: not having or showing foresight; spendthrift or thoughtless

11) What did Jesus say?

Matthew 26:10-13 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why _____ ye the woman? for she hath wrought a _____ work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my _____. 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 _____ of her.



The fragrant gift which Mary had thought to lavish upon the dead body of the Saviour she poured upon His living form. At the burial its sweetness could only have pervaded the tomb; now it gladdened His heart with the assurance of her faith and love. Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus offered not their gift of love to Jesus in His life. With bitter tears they brought their costly spices for His cold, unconscious form.

As Jesus went down into the darkness of His great trial, He carried with Him the memory of that deed, an earnest of the love that would be His from His redeemed ones forever.

12) How was Christ's love symbolized in the alabaster box?

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an _____ and a _____ to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

As the alabaster box was broken, and filled the whole house with its fragrance, so Christ was to die, His body was to be broken; but He was to rise from the tomb, and the fragrance of His life was to fill the earth.

Kingdoms would rise and fall; the names of monarchs and conquerors would be forgotten; but this woman's deed would be immortalized upon the pages of sacred history. Until time should be no more, that broken alabaster box would tell the story of the abundant love of God for a fallen race.

13) What did Judas do just as soon as he had opportunity?

Mark 14:10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to _____ him unto them.

The look which Jesus cast upon Judas convinced him that the Saviour penetrated his hypocrisy, and read his base, contemptible character. And in commanding Mary's action, which had been so severely condemned, Christ had rebuked Judas. Prior to this, the Saviour had never given him a direct rebuke. Now the reproof rankled in his heart. He determined to be revenged.

14) What was running through Simon the Pharisee's heart?

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a _____, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a _____.

By curing Simon of leprosy, Christ had saved him from a living death. But now Simon questioned whether the Saviour were a prophet. Because Christ allowed this woman to approach Him, because He did not indignantly spurn her as one whose sins were too great to be forgiven.

15) How did Jesus reply to Simon's **UNSPOKEN** question?

Luke 7:40-42 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to _____ unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly _____ them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

16) How did Simon reply?

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave _____. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.



He threw upon His host the burden of pronouncing sentence upon himself. Simon had led into sin the woman he now despised. She had been deeply wronged by him. By the two debtors of the parable, Simon and the woman were represented. Jesus did not design to teach that different degrees of obligation should be felt by the two persons, for each owed a debt of gratitude that never could be repaid.

17) What did Jesus follow up with?

Luke 7:44-46 And he turned to the _____, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no _____ for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no _____: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with _____ thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Simon now began to see himself in a new light. He saw how Mary was regarded by One who was more than a prophet. He saw that with keen prophetic eye Christ read her heart of love and devotion. Shame seized upon him, and he realized that he was in the presence of One superior to himself.

18) What were Jesus' final words about all this?

Luke 7:47-48 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are _____; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same _____ little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Simon was touched by the kindness of Jesus in not openly rebuking him before the guests. He had not been treated as he desired Mary to be treated. He saw that Jesus did not wish to expose his guilt to others but sought by a true statement of the case to convince his mind, and by pitying kindness to subdue his heart.

He saw the magnitude of the debt which he owed his Lord. His pride was humbled, he repented, and the proud Pharisee became a lowly, self-sacrificing disciple.

When to human eyes Mary's case appeared hopeless, Christ saw in her capabilities for good. He saw the better traits of her character. The plan of redemption has invested humanity with great possibilities, and in Mary these possibilities were to be realized. Through His grace she became a partaker of the divine nature. The one who had fallen, and whose mind had been a habitation of demons, was brought very near to the Saviour in fellowship and ministry. It was Mary who sat at His feet and learned of Him. It was Mary who poured upon His head the precious anointing oil and bathed His feet with her tears. Mary stood beside the cross and followed Him to the sepulcher. Mary was first at the tomb after His resurrection. It was Mary who first proclaimed a risen Saviour.

19) What will your judgement look like if you give all to the Saviour?

Romans 8:33-34 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that _____. Who is he that _____? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh _____ for us.

Can you see Jesus cares?

Would you like to be among the redeemed?

When is the time for eternity to start?