

LESSON PLAN

MARY ANOINTS JESUS

Matthew 26:6-16; John 12:1-8

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 100:2 - "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing."

Lesson Aim: Teach the saved children that they should honor Jesus by giving Him our best treasures.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): What is the nicest gift that you have ever given anyone? (Let the children discuss this question for a while.) We are used to the idea that we can go to Jesus Christ and ask Him for everything we need. We expect Him to give us many things, but how many times do we think about giving Him a gift? There are many gifts that will make Jesus very happy. Hebrews 13:15-16 tells us of three sacrificial gifts that we can give to Jesus Christ and Father God. Let's see if we can find them. (Have three cards with these gifts printed on them to show the children when the gifts are discovered. They are **give thanks, do good to others and share** (communicate) **with others**. Sharing with others is what Paul taught the Christians in Macedonia and Achaia when he collected an offering from them to give to the poor Jewish Christians in Jerusalem (2 Cor 9:6-9). There is another gift that we can give that is found in Romans 12:1. Who can find out what that gift is? (Have another card with the words, **our bodies** on it.)

HE (for Authority): One of the gifts that Jesus likes very much is found in our memory verse: Psalm 100:2. Who can tell me what it is? It is one that we all can give, but many Christians forget to give it to the Lord. What is this gift? Yes, it is the gift of service with a glad heart. We should serve Him with joy in our hearts and a song on our lips. That is a wonderful gift to give to the Lord.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our Bible story for today is about a person who gave an expensive gift to Jesus. It made Jesus happy, but it made some of His disciples grumble. Do you know what it was? Listen and you will find out what it was.

I. The Setting - John 12:1-2; Matthew 26:6

Six days before the Passover, when Jesus would die on the cross, a supper was made for Jesus and His disciples in Bethany. It was held in the house of Simon, the leper. Bethany is the village where Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived. This village was about two miles from Jerusalem. Many people wanted to be with Jesus.

WE: Do we enjoy talking to Jesus in prayer and listening to Him as we read the Bible and memorize Bible verses? I hope you want to be with Jesus.

II. The Sacrifice - John 12:3, 5; Matthew 26:7

Mary took a pound of costly ointment of spikenard – a very expensive perfume that could have sold for 300 pence (about a year's wages for a common laborer) and anointed Jesus' head. She also anointed Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. It was a great sacrifice for Mary to give this gift to Jesus, but she was generous with her gift and humble in using her hair to wipe Jesus' feet. But as she humbly wiped Jesus' feet with her hair, she actually perfumed herself. The extra perfume was wiped up by her hair and she had the same fragrance as Jesus, her Lord. Also, her gift of spikenard perfumed the whole house and was a blessing to all who honored Jesus.

WE: What have we given to the Lord? Do our gifts please the Lord and all those who love Him? Do we give our gifts with a gentle, humble heart?

III. The Sarcasm - John 12:4-6; Matthew 26:8, 14-16

Satan hates it when anyone gives honor and love to Jesus. Judas expressed Satan's feelings when he rebuked Mary for her gift and called it a "waste." It was cruel for him to say such a thing to Mary. Judas said this gift could have been sold and the money given to the poor, but Judas was not interested in the poor. He was a thief and wanted the money from the sale of the perfume to be put into a bag of money

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that he controlled. Then he would take some of that money for himself. He was selfish and did not want Jesus to receive any special gifts. Soon afterward, Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. That is what the chief priests paid Judas for betraying Jesus. This was less than a third of what Mary gave in honoring Jesus. Did Judas help the poor by betraying Jesus to death? No! Jesus was a friend of the poor and had helped them repeatedly. Judas was not only a thief, but also a liar and a murderer!

WE: Do we give good gifts to the Lord? Or do we criticize others who give gifts to the Lord?

CONTRAST MARY WITH JUDAS

Mary

1. Unselfish and gave
2. Loved Jesus and gave Him a costly gift
3. Blessed the whole house with her gift
4. Became a servant
5. Showed spiritual understanding
6. Remembered for her loyalty to Jesus

Judas

1. Selfish and stole
2. Despised Jesus and sold Him for cheap price
3. Made some of the disciples sin by his criticism
4. Became a betrayer
5. Lacked spiritual understanding
6. Remembered as a traitor of Jesus

WE: Who are we like, Mary or Judas? Ask God to help you to be like Mary.

IV. The Sign - John 12:7-8; Matthew 26:13

Mary's anointing was a testimony that she believed Jesus' words that He would die and rise again (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34). She knew He was going to die and anointed Him before His death. No one anointed Him after His death because He arose before they could do so. Mary honored Jesus when she had the opportunity. If she had not given her gift to Him on that day, she probably would have missed her chance to honor Him at all. Mary's gift greatly honored the Lord, but the Lord promised to honor her even more. She would be honored wherever the Gospel would be preached.

WE: Do we take every opportunity to honor the Lord with our gifts, or do we wait, thinking there will be a better time? Do we believe that the Lord will honor us when we honor Him? We can never give more to the Lord than He will give to us.

BE (for Action): We can honor the Lord by sharing our money with needy Christians and with faithful missionaries in love offerings. We can give money to keep the building in good condition where the church meets. We can give money to take care of the needs of the pastor and his family. There are other gifts that we discussed at the beginning of the lesson that you can give Him, too. You can serve Him with gladness, be thankful, do good to others and give your body as a living sacrifice to do whatever He wants from you (Psalm 100:2; Hebrews 13:15-16; Rom 12:1).

What is the best thing that you have to share with others? (The good news of salvation) When you tell others that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for their sins and rose from the dead to share His life with them, you are giving them the best gift possible. You are doing even more. You are a great blessing to the Lord.

Everyone has something to give to the Lord if they are saved. Think about what you want to give to the Lord as you bow your heads. (Remind them to be like Mary and not like Judas. Have them raise their hands as they decide what they want to give to Jesus. Pray for them to be faithful in giving their gifts to the Lord.)