

Mark 14:9

Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.

Reading today's devotional verse, you may be wondering who Jesus is talking about. This is a very special story because it is the story of a woman who took this fragrant oil and anointed Jesus's head with it.

† **Mark 14:3 & 8** *And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.
She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.*

This is the Mary who is the sister of Martha and Lazarus.

† **John 12:2-3** *There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.*

One other cool thing is that this story is told in all four gospels, hence what Jesus said in today's devotional verse.

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But you know what, that's not why she did it. It is believed that the cost of this oil was around \$30,000-\$35,000. She had no idea that the Bible was going to be written and that she would even be mentioned in any writings for what she had done for Jesus. She simply did it because she loved Jesus. Also, it wasn't something that Jesus asked her to do either, she just did it.

How many times do we ask the Lord what He wants us to do, when we really already know what He wants us to do. But if we do it we are making a huge sacrifice, so we ask because we want to make sure it's what He wants, or maybe because we don't really want to do it, so we are looking for a loophole to get out of doing it?

Or how many times do we do those things that are out in the open for everyone to see so that we can get the glory for what we do.

That wasn't the case for Mary, in fact, there were those who thought what she was doing was crazy.

† **John 12:5** *"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"*

And do you know who actually said this about her?

† **John 12:4** *Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,*

Yeah, Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus

But Mark also says: ***But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? Mark 14:4***

Which would tell me that others (some) were agreeing with Judas. But once again, Mary had no idea what others would say. She really didn't care, because it was for Jesus, and when you do for Jesus, it doesn't matter what anyone says, as long as Jesus accepts it.

Here is one more thought. When Jesus and her left the house, she smelled just like the oil, probably for several days, but so did Jesus. So Jesus would walk around the next few days and people could smell the fragrant oil on Jesus, then later on she would pass by some of these same people and she smelled like the fragrant oil as well. Simple, people could tell that she had been with Jesus.

Can people tell that you were with Jesus today or any day?

† **Acts 4:13** *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*