

As our Lord Jesus was eating, Mary brought out a jar of spikenard, a very costly fragrant oil. So costly, in fact, that it was worth a whole year's wages. But it wasn't the hours she had toiled to earn the oil that Mary thought about as she cradled the jar in her hands. It was Jesus. It was her Lord. She had come prepared to worship Jesus, and her heart overflowed with a love that could not be expressed in words as she drew near to Him. Gratitude and adoration welled up inside her as she knelt quietly beside Him. Not sparing a drop of her exquisite tribute, she anointed the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. The entire house was filled with the opulent fragrance of her worship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Upon witnessing this lavish and extravagant gesture, one of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, lashed out indignantly: "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (John 12:5). The sad reality is this: Judas could tell the value of the oil straightaway, but he couldn't see the value of our Lord Jesus. He is like so many people today who know the value of real estate, commodities, and publicly traded companies in the stock market, but not the value of our Lord Jesus.

Mary understood the value of our Lord implicitly. Because she esteemed Jesus so greatly, anointing Him with her most valuable possession was simply an outward representation of just how much she loved, valued, and cherished our Lord Jesus inwardly. What Judas Iscariot saw as waste, Mary saw as worship. To her, the person of our Lord Jesus was priceless.

John 12:3 "Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the oil."