

Lent 2014 Bible Studies: Matthew 26

11th March: 'Anointing Jesus'

The Anointing at Bethany

⁶Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ^{7a}a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, 'Why this waste? ⁹For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.' ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
as we open the scriptures,
open our minds that we may know the wonder of your grace,
and open our hearts to receive the mystery of your love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

'A woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table.'

- What is the significance of anointing?
- Who gets anointed in the Bible?
- Who gets anointed today?

"For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me."

- What does this verse mean for us today?
- What does it mean for us to 'perform a good service' for Jesus in our worship?
- What does it mean for us to 'perform a good service' for Jesus in the poor?
- Are these things opposites or complimentary?

"Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

- What do we understand by the 'good news'?
- Why is this woman singled out for special 'remembrance', and what does this mean?

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'Anointing Jesus' – Act of Worship

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you:
and also with you.

Silence is kept, while we call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have failed to worship you as our Messiah.
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have poured scorn on other people's worship.
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have failed to proclaim the good news.
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

READING: Matthew 26.6-13

HYMN

**1. How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.**

**2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.**

**3. Dear Name, the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace!**

**4. Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.**

**5. Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**6. Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy Name
refresh my soul in death!**

PRAYERS *are offered, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.*

BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**