**JESUS IN BETHANY**

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**John 12:1-11** Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2**Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.**3**Then Mary took about a pintof pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

**4**But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,**5**“Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages” **6**He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

**7**“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. **8**You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

**9**Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.**10**So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, **11**for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

Setting & Characters:

SETTING:

Bethany –

* Meaning “House of Dates”. (very Near Beth Page which is “house of unripe figs”)
* A small village about 2 miles from Jerusalem that served as a “Suburb” of Jerusalem.
* Located on the Eastern slope of the Mount of Olives on the way to/from Jericho.
* Jesus was very familiar with Bethany and seemed to be a regular visitor at the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
* The Triumphal Entry began here (next week) and Jesus Ascended from here according to Luke.

The Dinner –

* Dinner in Jesus’ honor takes place at the home of Simon the Leper
* Takes place *near*, but not *at* the home of Lazarus/Mary&Martha where he was staying.
* The apostles and Lazarus were in attendance Martha served.

CHARACTERS –

JESUS – On His way to Jerusalem, knowing it was His time to die just as He predicted.

Simon the Leper – A ”leper” Presumably healed by Jesus or he would not have hosted a dinner. Not the same as “Simon the Pharisee” in a similar event that takes place in Galilee in Luke 7. (Simon – “*to hear”* was a very popular name in the NT, as was Mary)

Lazarus – Was very famous at this time because he was raised from the dead. He was also on the Pharisees ‘Hit list” along with Jesus. *John 12:9-10* ***“****When all the people heard of Jesus’ arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead.****10****Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too,****11****for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.”*

Martha – Seemed to be the head of the house that she shared with her brother Lazarus and Sister Mary. Luke 10:38 describes it as “Her House”.

Mary – There are at least seven “Mary’s” mentioned in the New Testament. The three “Main Mary’s are: Mary Jesus mother, Mary Magdalene, and Mary of Bethany the sister of Lazarus and Martha. This story is about Mary of Bethany the same Mary that sat at Jesus feet, (while her sister was doing all the work back in Luke 10), but **not** the same woman who anointed Jesus up in Galilee in Luke 7, (that one *may* have been Mary Magdelene from nearby Magdela where he cast demons out of her.).

Judas – The one who betrayed Jesus just a few days later, was also the one with the most vociferous complaint against the “waste” of costly perfume. *John 12:6 says: he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.*

Jesus was a “*friend of the family*” had very *personal and candid relationship* with this family, their conversations were very informal:

Examples:

Luke 10:38-42**“**As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. **39**Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. **40**But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.”

**41**But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! **42**There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

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(ALSO in *Bethany*)

John 11:1-7  **“**A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. **2**This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord’s feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. **3**So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “Lord, your dear friend is very sick.”

**4**But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.” **5**So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, **6**he stayed where he was for the next two days.**7**Finally, he said to his disciples, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

John 11:17-36

**17**When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. **18**Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, **19**and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. **20**When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. **21**Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22**But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

**23**Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

**24**“Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.”

**25**Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011#fen-NLT-26514e)] Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. **26**Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

**27**“Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.”

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**32**When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

**33**When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2011#fen-NLT-26522f)] and he was deeply troubled.**34**“Where have you put him?” he asked them.

They told him, “Lord, come and see.” **35**Then Jesus wept. **36**The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!”

Matt 22:37-39 Jesus said to him, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38**This is the first and greatest of the Laws. **39**The second is like it, ‘You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.’

ANOINTING:

A High Priest: **14**So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God. (Heb. 4:14)

Prophet:  **22**Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people (Acts 3:22)

King: On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords. (Rev 19:16)

The most Holy and Important use of the word Anointing is**; “Meshiach”** – The Hebrew word for **Messiah** which literally means “THE ANOINTED ONE”.

1. *Mary was giving her future to Jesus*.
2. *She was giving Jesus her reputation*.
3. *She gave Jesus her complete devotion*.

Deut. 6:5. (Moses)

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Psalm 103:1 (David)

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **all** that is **within me**, bless his holy name!”

***As we worship, serve and devote our lives to Him,***

***Let’s love Him with our whole heart and worship Him with all we’ve got.***