

A Special Memorial

(Mark 14:3-9)

Introduction:

1. As we study this text of Scripture, we are especially concerned with the Lord's statements in vs.8-9.
 - a. In vs.8 Jesus commended a woman for doing something she was capable of doing.
 - b. In vs.9 He said that this woman's good work would *"be spoken of for a memorial of her."*
2. To help us fully appreciate what happened on this occasion, . . .

Discussion:

I. LET US EXAMINE THE SETTING

- A. For some time, Jesus had been showing what would happen to Him (10:32-34).
- B. As ch.14 begins, the time for these things to occur was very near.
- C. According to 14:1-2, the Jewish leaders were plotting to kill Jesus.

II. LET US READ JOHN 12:1-8 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

III. LET US EXAMINE MARK 14:3-9

- A. (vs.3) Jesus was in Bethany, located near Jerusalem.
 1. He was in the home of a man named Simon for a meal.
 2. A family that Jesus dearly loved was present (Lazarus, Martha, and Mary).
 - a. (John 12:2) Lazarus was at the table with Jesus, and Martha was serving (Martha and her sister Mary are contrasted in Luke 10:38-42).
 - b. Mary was about to do something else that would never be taken away from her.
 3. We learn from John 12:3 that Mary was the woman who poured the expensive ointment on Jesus.
 - a. Mark tells us that Mary poured the ointment on the Lord's head.
 - b. John tells us that Mary also poured it on the Lord's feet, and she wiped His feet with her hair.
 - c. Caution: Mary must not be confused with the woman who anointed the Lord's feet with ointment in Luke 7.
- B. (vs.4-5) Unfortunately, everyone did not appreciate Mary's act of kindness.
 1. Mary's service to the Lord was considered to be a *"waste."*
 2. The suggestion was made that the ointment could have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor.
 3. This actually came from Judas (John 12:4-6).
 4. While some were murmuring against her, . . .

- C. (vs.6-9) Jesus was pleased with Mary's act of service.
 - 1. He told the disciples to leave her alone.
 - 2. They would always be able to help the poor, but Jesus would only be with them for a short time.
 - 3. Jesus commended Mary for doing what she could do.
 - 4. He then made that very special statement about Mary in vs.9.

IV. LET US MAKE APPLICATION

- A. In Romans 12:6-21, the Bible teaches us that the Lord wants us to do what we are capable of doing to the best of our ability.
 - 1. This relates to using our talents and abilities.
 - 2. This also relates to treating others properly.
- B. According to Matthew 25:40, when we do these things we are performing good works on the Lord as Mary did.
- C. The Bible teaches in Hebrews 6:10 that God will remember such good works.

Conclusion:

- 1. Mary illustrates how serving the Lord has the potential to influence many people.
- 2. By taking advantage of an opportunity that was presented to her, Mary's influence has spread throughout the whole world, and her influence will last as long as these passages are read.
- 3. Let us allow Mary's example to motivate us to always practice the Lord's instructions found in Matthew 5:14-16.