

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Jesus Anointed at Bethany**Learning Goals:** Students will evaluate the foreshadowing of Jesus' death and burial present in the story of his anointing. Also, students will compare the tension between mission and worship.**Question:** What is the most expensive gift you have ever given? To whom?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

Matthew 26:1-16

The Plot to kill Jesus

- Jesus announces his own crucifixion
- Who? The chief priests, elders, and the high priest Caiaphas.
- What? Jewish leaders plot to arrest and kill Jesus.
- When? "Not during the feast of the Passover."
- Why? They felt threatened by him.
- How? Quietly, so as not to arouse suspicion.

What do we notice about the setting?

- They are in Bethany - the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
- Jesus is in the house of "Simon the leper" (an unclean man?)

The Anointing

- The jar of ointment was very valuable.
According to Mark's gospel, this ointment was worth 300 denarii (about a year's wage - American median wage \$27,000).
- Ointment was probably a mixture derived from the root of the nard plant, which grew in Nepal and was transported across the Arabian Peninsula in caravans
- Alabaster is a translucent (see through) stone found in Egypt
- This "anointing" was a preparation for Jesus' burial
 - normally this would come after death
 - normally, the body of a deceased would be anointed with scented oils in the family home before the public burial
 - Jesus would be buried in a hurry so he was not prepared according to the normal ritual preparation/tradition.
- Messiah means "anointed" so this was also connected to the recognition of Jesus as king.
- Jesus says that she will be remembered always for her act of devotion.

The Objection

- This ointment could have been sold and the money given to the poor.
- Example: Presidential Inauguration - how much money is spent every four years on this celebration and numerous balls (dances)
- Example: Bellevue Baptist in Memphis building three 100 ft. tall crosses on the side of I-40.
- John 12:6 tells us that greed was the real motivation behind the objection.

The Tension

- There is always the pull between:

- beauty and sense of duty
- praise and good works
- worshipping God and serving the poor
- worship and mission
- The extravagance of worship can be considered wasteful by well-meaning mission-oriented followers
- Churches that spend most of their resources and energies reaching outward among the needy in the community and world can neglect the stewardship of praise and adoration that reminds us that God is God.
- There is no worship that would be too lavish for God; we could never give Jesus more than he deserves.

The Betrayal

- Introduction of Judas Iscariot as the one who would betray Jesus.
- Iscariot - possibly from *sicarios* meaning “assassin or bandit” - sicarii were members of the Zealots; could be that when Judas realized Jesus was not starting a military revolution, he lost his patience and tried to jumpstart the revolution.
- He does so for thirty pieces of silver. (The same amount would be given a disrespected shepherd - Zechariah 11:12-14 - or the amount given a master if an ox gored a slave - Exodus 21:32.)

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Alabaster