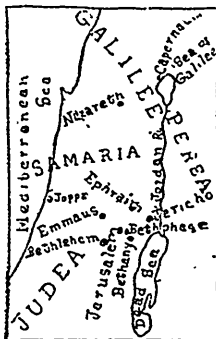


7, 8. Let her alone. A thieving hypocrite like Judas, to criticize Mary's loving impulse—no wonder Jesus was indignant! **Against . . . my burying**, etc. Jesus' death was so near, that Mary's anointing him had really been a preparation of his body for burial. The Jews (see Mark 16 : 1) used to anoint the bodies of their dead. **Poor always . . . with you . . . me . . . not always.** Jesus sets the highest value on every act of love done to the "poor," his representatives, Matt. 25 : 40. But there are times for showing love to himself personally. And this also calls forth his praise. No duty is higher than that of showing our love to Jesus when we have the opportunity. In Matt. 25 : 35-40, Jesus places himself alongside of the poor.

III. THE PRIESTS' PLOTTING.—9-11. Much people of the Jews; the common people, as distinguished from the leaders. **Came not for Jesus' sake only**; but partly for this: "the common people heard him gladly," Mark 12 : 37. See Lazarus also. Then, as now, people crowded to see a wonder. But the chief priests consulted, etc. They were Sadducees, not believing in the resurrection (Acts 23 : 8), and they could not bear to have a man near Jerusalem who was a living contradiction of their opinion. **Many of the Jews . . . believed on Jesus.** The raising of Lazarus made many believers; a foreshadowing of the multitude who should believe on the day of Pentecost after Jesus had risen, Acts 2 : 41.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



Jordan and the Dead Sea.

John tells (ch. 11 : 54) that Jesus, in consequence of plots formed against him by the Jews after the raising of Lazarus, retired to a "country near to the wilderness into a city called Ephraim." The WILDERNESS probably means the wild and lonely region northeast of Jerusalem. EPHRAIM has been identified with a small village now called et Taiyibeh, situated on a conspicuous conical hill commanding a view of the valley of the

house was a supper made for him? What part was taken by Martha? What by Lazarus?

3 What did Mary bring? Describe the "ointment." What use did Mary make of it? Where is the Messiah said to have been anointed with the oil of gladness? (Ps. 45 : 7.)

4-6 Who found fault with Mary? What did he say ought to have been done with the ointment? What was Judas' real reason for complaining?

7, 8 How did Jesus show his indignation? What explanation did he give of Mary's deed? What is the great reason why we should love Jesus? (1 John 4 : 19.)

9-11 What effect had the raising of Lazarus upon many of the Jews? What plot was formed by the chief priests?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Should we give to our friends only things that are useful?
2. Ought money spent on a fine church to be given to the poor?

A PRAYER

We thank thee, our Father, that thou hast given us in thy Word the portraits of men and women of like passions with ourselves. Teach us from the example of Mary, who loved her Lord and would not be restrained; of Martha, who was always busy in the service of her friends; of Judas, who permitted self to crowd God from his life. Let our lives be surrendered to thee, altogether to thee, and to thee only. Deliver us from half-hearted service. Cleanse our hearts from all defilement. And glorify thyself in us. For thy name's sake. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That God loves everybody.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation? A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

The Question on Missions—4. What are the methods of work? Many patients are kept and treated in the hospital; some get medicine at the dispensary for use at home; others are visited at their homes. The missionaries and the medical assistants and trained Bible women use every opportunity to teach the patients and their friends the gospel story.

LESSON QUESTIONS

- 1, 2 When did Jesus arrive at Bethany? At whose

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did Mary show her love to Jesus?
2. What meaning did Jesus see in her deed?

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