

## Lesson IV.

## JESUS ANOINTED AT BETHANY

April 22, 1917

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—About two months after the raising of Lazarus (see Lesson II., April 8, John 11: 17-27, 43, 44), Jesus came again to Bethany.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—She hath done what she could.—Mark 14: 8.

\*Memorize John 1: 6, 7.

**THE LESSON PASSAGE**—John 12: 1-11.

1 Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

2 There they made him a supper; and Martha served; but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

4 Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

5 Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

**Revised Version**—Jesus therefore; <sup>2</sup>Omit four words; <sup>3</sup>Jesus; <sup>4</sup>So they; <sup>5</sup>there; <sup>6</sup>meat; <sup>7</sup>Mary therefore took; <sup>8</sup>precious; <sup>9</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, which; <sup>10</sup>saith; <sup>11</sup>Now this; <sup>12</sup>because; <sup>13</sup>having the bag took away; <sup>14</sup>Jesus therefore said, Suffer her to keep it against; <sup>15</sup>ye have always; <sup>16</sup>The common people therefore of the Jews learned that; <sup>17</sup>took counsel.

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

8 For the poor ye always have with you; but me ye have not always.

9 Much people of the Jews therefore know that he was there: and they came not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

10 But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;

11 Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

### HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Jesus anointed at Bethany, John 12: 1-11.

T.—The utmost for Christ, Mark 14: 3-9.

W.—The one thing needful, Luke 10: 38-42.

S.—Christ's anointing shared, 1 John 2: 24-29.

Th.—Love's offering, Luke 7: 36-50.

F.—Rich men's tribute, John 19: 38-42.

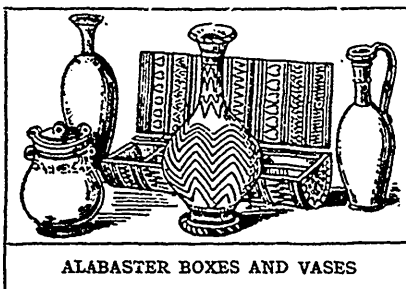
S.—The Lord's anointed, Ps. 45: 6-17.

### THE LESSON EXPLAINED

#### I. MARY'S OFFERING.

1, 2. Six days before the passover. The Passover in that year (A.D. 30) fell on Thursday, April 8. Jesus and his disciples, therefore, arrived at Bethany on Friday, March 31. Where Lazarus was; to whose resurrection the village chiefly owes its fame. They; the friends of Jesus. Made him a supper; "in the house of Simon the leper" (Matt. 26: 6), perhaps on whom our Lord had healed. Likely Simon was a relative of Lazarus and his sisters. The time of the supper was probably the evening of Saturday, after the close of the Jewish Sabbath, at sunset. Martha served. Busy, bustling Martha (Luke 10: 40), she ministered to Jesus in her own natural way. Lazarus; a distinguished guest, the trophy of Jesus' power and love. Sat at the table. The tables of that time were low, sometimes not more than a foot high, with couches on three sides, on which the guests reclined, their feet being away from the table.

3. Then took Mary; her heart overflowing with love and reverence. A pound (twelve ounces) of ointment; a liquid perfume. Of spikenard; literally "pistic nard." Nard was a perfume made from the head or "spike" of an East Indian plant. "Pistic"



ALABASTER BOXES AND VASES

means pure, genuine, unadulterated. Very costly. Mary felt that only a lavish gift could express her abounding love. Anointed the feet. Matthew (ch. 26: 7) and Mark (ch. 14: 3) say the head also. It was less usual to anoint the feet of a guest than the head, but for that reason it was a greater mark of honor (compare Luke 7: 40). Wiped his feet with her hair; a most unusual mark of respect and affection (see Luke 7: 38, 44), since Eastern custom forbade a woman to appear with unloosed hair. House was filled with the odour; as the world has been with the fragrance of this loving deed, Matt. 26: 13.

II. A FALSE DISCIPLE.—4-6. Judas Iscariot; meaning, "Judas a man of Kerieth," a place in Judah, always mentioned last in the lists of apostles, Matt. 10: 4; Mark 3: 19; Luke 6: 16. Should betray him; to the chief priests (see Matt. 26: 14-16). Why . . . not . . . sold for three hundred pence. A "penny" was about 16 cents, but being a laborer's day's wage was equal to at least a dollar in our money. Given to the poor. The funds belonging to Jesus and his disciples were in Judas' care, ch. 13: 29. He was a thief; using as his own the trust funds. Had the bag; the purse. Took away (Rev. Ver.); purloined.

\* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

† Courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.