

work; rather, a beautiful work. It was not waste; love made it beautiful. **Ye have the poor . . . always.** There will be endless opportunity of helping them: **Me ye have not always.** He refers to the fact of his early crucifixion. It was not only beautiful, it was timely. She hath done what she could; a third characteristic of the gift—it was perfect. She had done her utmost for Jesus. She is come aforehand; fourth characteristic. It was appropriate, serving some end **Anoint my body.** While Mary may not have meant it so, her anointing was really a preparation for death. The Jews anointed the bodies of their dead. The gift revived Christ's heart and prepared his body. **Shall be spoken of for a memorial;** a fifth characteristic—the gift was unforgettable.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



BETHANY was about two miles distant from Jerusalem. It lay on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives, fully a mile beyond the summit. It is not very far from the point at which the road makes a sudden dip down to the valley of the River Jordan. In Luke 24 : 50 we learn that the ascension of Jesus took place in the vicinity of Bethany. The village, however, is best known as the home of the three friends of Jesus whom he greatly loved,—Lazarus the silent, Martha the practical, Mary the meditative.

LESSON QUESTIONS

- 1, 2 What feast was near? What were the other two great feasts? (Deut. 16 : 10, 13.) What great event does the Passover commemorate? Who was plotting against Jesus? Why did they not seize him openly?
- 3 In what village was Jesus at the time of our lesson? How far was Bethany from Jerusalem? In

whose house was he a guest? Who served at the table? (John 12 : 2.) What happened during the feast? What was this woman's name? (John 12 : 3.)

4, 5 What was the value of this ointment? Who were indignant at the action of the woman? How did they describe this action? What did they say should have been done with the ointment?

6-9 Who defended the action of the woman? What did Jesus say she had wrought on him? What did he say about the poor? What did he say about himself? What had she done aforehand? How was this deed to be remembered?

FOR DISCUSSION

- 1 Should we be glad or sorry when bad people are our enemies?
- 2 Should all our gifts to our friends be useful gifts?

A PRAYER

O God, we need thy Spirit that we may understand the messages of thy Word. Make the truth plain and clear to us. Save us from the sin of wilful misunderstanding and calculating disobedience. Teach us to walk in the footprints of our master, and help us to share with thee the work of spreading the gospel. For thy name's sake. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That forgiveness creates love.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 18. *Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?* A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

The Question on Missions—9. Do they have parties? Non-Christian Koreans do not have parties, though they may meet together to talk. Feasts are quite common among non-Christian and Christian. The Christian Koreans seldom have parties in their own home, but love to gather in the homes of the missionaries to play games.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why did the priests and scribes hate Jesus?
2. Why was Judas indignant?
3. What did Jesus say of Mary's anointing?

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