

elaborate as that which Martha had made. Each drop of this spikenard was worth the day's wage of a working man. Will He not therefore strongly disapprove of this extravagance? No, not on this occasion. He will accept it, every drop of it; accept it unblushingly and thankfully. He has need, now, of some special anointing at Love's hand. For He is about to receive the buffetings of hatred and of scorn. In Jerusalem they are waiting for Him that they may spit in His face, smite Him with their fists, scourge Him with their thongs, and nail His hands and feet to a tree. He will be very glad to carry with Him the fragrant memory of a love that lavished upon Him its choicest possession. It will be as a precious perfume to His thoughts, a refreshing and sustaining balm for His troubled spirit. Hence His justification of Mary's act: "Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon Me. For in that she hath poured this ointment upon My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial."

We are not to suppose that Mary had such an intention in the act, but He ascribes to the act that noble effect. Mary did not know that He was about to die. Had she known it her deed would have been a