

Lesson IV.

JESUS ANOINTED IN BETHANY

October 28, 1906

Matthew 26 : 6-16—Memory Verses, 12, 13.

Golden Text—She hath wrought a good work upon me.—Matthew 26 : 10.

6 Now when Je'sus was in Beth'any, in the house of Si'mon the leper,

7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat *at meal*.

8 But when his disciples saw *it*, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

10 When Je'sus understood *it*, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

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

12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did *it* for my burial.

13 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, *there* shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

14 Then one of the twelve, called Ju'das Iscar'iot, went unto the chief priests,

15 And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of

silver. 16 And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

THE LESSON RETOLD

About a week before He died on the cross, Jesus was in Bethany, at the house of Simon, a man whom He had cured of leprosy. This village was also the home of Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. A supper was made at Simon's house in honor of Jesus, at which the two sisters and their brother were present, besides other invited guests.

The sisters' hearts were filled with love and gratitude to Jesus, who had so wonderfully restored their brother to life again, and they longed to show Him what they felt.

So Mary brought a box or vase of very precious perfume she had bought, which was so costly that only the very wealthy ever used it, and coming behind the guests as they reclined about the table, she broke the seal, and poured some of the perfume, first on the head, and then on the feet of Jesus. As the odor of the perfume filled the room, Jesus' disciples murmured against such waste, and said, "It would have been better if she had given us this ointment to

sell, and we could have used the money for the poor."

But Jesus understood the love and gratitude which Mary had meant to show, and said to the disciples, "Why do you blame and trouble her? Let her alone, for it is a good deed she has done in My honor. You have the poor with you always, to whom you can show kindness whenever you wish; but you will not always have Me with you. Mary, as if she knew I was soon to die, has wished to show Me in the strongest way she could, how much she loves Me. She has done for Me, while I still live, what she would soon have had to do for My dead body. And I say to you, that wherever the gospel shall be preached in the whole world, this story shall be told, to remind people of her love and self-denial."

Judas was very much disappointed when he heard these words of Jesus. He carried the bag in which the disciples kept their money, and because he was a thief and sometimes used to take part of the money for himself, he made up his mind, when he heard