

John 12 : 1-11. Commit to memory v. 3.

GOLDEN TEXT—We love him, because he first loved us.—1 John 4 : 19.

1 ¹ Then Je'sus six days before the passover came to Beth'any, where Laz'arus ² was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

2 ³ There they made him a supper⁴; and Mar'tha served: but Laz'arus was one of them that sat at ⁵ the table with him.

3 ⁶ Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spike-nard, very ⁷ costly, and anointed the feet of Je'sus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

4 ⁸ Then saith one of his disciples, Ju'das Iscar'iot, Si'mon's son, which should betray him,

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

Revised Version—¹ Jesus therefore; ² was, whom Jesus raised; ³ So they; ⁴ there; ⁵ meat with him; ⁶ Mary therefore took; ⁷ precious; ⁸ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, which should betray him, saith; ⁹ Now this; ¹⁰ because he cared; having the bag, took away what; ¹¹ Jesus therefore said, Suffer her to keep it against the day of my burying; ¹² ye have always; ¹³ The common people therefore of the Jews learned that; ¹⁴ took counsel.

LESSON PLAN

I. Loving Friends, 1-3.

II. A False Disciple, 4-8.

III. Bitter Foes, 9-11.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Jesus anointed at Bethany, John 12 : 1-11. T.—To be remembered, Mk. 14 : 1-9. W.—A sinner forgiven, Luke 7 : 36-50. Th.—A good choice, Luke 10 : 38-42. F.—A thankful heart, Ps. 116 : 1-14. S.—Gratitude expressed, Ps. 66 : 13-20. S.—Loss for Christ, Phil. 3 : 1-14.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 90. *How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to*

6 ⁹ This he said, not ¹⁰ that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

7 ¹¹ Then said Je'sus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

8 For the poor ¹² always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

9 ¹³ Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Je'sus' sake only, but that they might see Laz'arus also, whom he had raised from the dead.

10 But the chief priests ¹⁴ consulted that they might put Laz'arus also to death;

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

salvation? A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practise it in our lives.

The Question on Missions—3. What do the people of Labrador do for a living? There are no farmers in Labrador; the soil is too scanty and the summer too short. A few of the people are lumbermen, but most of them live by hunting and fishing.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 116 (Supplemental Lesson); 183; 210; 32 (Ps. Sel.); 171 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 180.

Special Scripture Reading—Luke 7 : 36-50 (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Six days before the Passover, A.D. 30; Bethany.

Connecting Links—The raising³ of Lazarus had two effects. On the one hand, some were so impressed by it that they became disciples of Jesus. On the other, the Jewish authorities, including the chief priests and Pharisees, were roused by the sensation which the event had caused to make plans for the destruction of Jesus. Their feelings were voiced by the high priest Caiaphas, who, in words more significant than he was aware of, urged that it was expedient "that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not" (ch. 11 : 49, 50). They feared that the people might accept Jesus as Messiah, and so provoke the Roman government. Jesus, therefore, retired for a time to the town of Ephraim, northeast of Jerusalem. (See ch. 11 : 45-57.)

I. Loving Friends, 1-3.

V. 1. *Then Jesus* (literally, "Jesus therefore"). "Therefore" refers back to the mention of the Passover in ch. 11 : 55. *Six*

days before the passover. It was the beginning of the last week of our Lord's earthly life. *Came to Bethany, where Lazarus was.* Bethany would be a quiet resting place in view of the awful ordeal which He had immediately to face. Picture His intercourse with Lazarus.

V. 2. *They made him a supper.* The reference to Lazarus as "one of them that sat at meat with Him" shows that the supper was not in Lazarus' house. Matthew (ch. 26 : 6) and Mark (ch. 14 : 3) both describe it as taking place in the house of Simon the Leper. Some interpreters think that this was an entertainment arranged by the people of Bethany as "a grateful recognition of the work done among them". *Martha served.* Her action was true to her character, Luke 10 : 40.

V. 3. *Then took Mary.* Mary shows her characteristic quality of loving devotion, Luke 10 : 39. *A pound* (twelve ounces) of ointment; a liquid perfume. *Of spikenard*; literally, "pistic nard", which may be trans-