

John 12 : 1-11—Memory Verse, 3.

**Golden Text**—We love him, because he first loved us.—1 John 4 : 19.**THE LESSON RETOLD**

Six days before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus once more came to the little village of Bethany, where Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, lived with his sisters, Mary and Martha. To do Jesus honor some people of the village made a supper for Him. Martha waited on the guests, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Jesus.

The sisters' hearts were filled with gratitude to Jesus for having given their brother back to them again, and they were both eager to show Him how much they loved Him. Now it was a common thing in that country to pour fragrant perfumes upon the heads of any specially honored guests, and sometimes even on their feet, so Mary had bought a pound weight of very rare

perfume, so costly that it was used only by the rich; and, as the guests reclined on couches round the table, as the custom then was, Mary came behind Jesus, and poured the perfume upon His feet, and afterwards wiped them with her hair.

As the sweet odor of the perfume filled the whole house, the guests all noticed it. Some of them blamed Mary for wastefulness, and Judas Iscariot, the disciple who afterwards betrayed Jesus, said, "It would have been much better to have sold this ointment for three hundred dollars and given the money to the poor". Judas said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he carried the bag in which all the disciples' money was kept, and he was a thief and wished to steal it for his own. But Jesus sternly rebuked him. "Let her alone", He said, "why do you find fault with her? For it is a good deed she has done in My honor. You have the poor with you always, and can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have Me with you."

While Jesus was at the supper, crowds of people gathered round, not for His sake only,—for what He could teach them, or what He would do for them,—but also that they might see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. For never before had any of them seen a man who was dead, come to life again.

So the chief priests consulted together, how they might put Lazarus to death, as well as Jesus; for many of the Jews believed on Jesus because they had seen the wonderful miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead.

**Questions on the Lesson**

1. Whither did Jesus once more go, six days before the Passover? 2. Who lived there? 3. What did the people of Bethany do for Jesus? 4. Why were Martha and Mary so grateful to Jesus? 5. What did they wish to do? 6. What use was often made of perfumes in that country? 7. What did Mary do? 8. Why did some of the guests blame her? 9. What did Judas say? 10. Why did he say this? 11. What was Jesus' answer? 12. What did He say about the poor? 13. Who gathered about Jesus at the supper? 14. For what had they come? 15. What did the chief priests plan to do to Lazarus? 16. Why did they wish to do this? 17. What is the Golden Text?