

## THE SUPPER AT BETHANY

April 16, 1905

John 12 : 1-11—Memory Verses, 2, 3.

olden Text—She hath done what she could.—Mark 14 : 8.



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

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

3 Then took Ma'ry a pound of ointment of spikenard, very 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 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?

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

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

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

9 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 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.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

The next time the Saviour came to Bethany, where He had raised Lazarus from the dead, a man named Simon, who had been cured of leprosy, made Him a great supper at his house. To this feast Lazarus also was invited, and when it was known who were to be there, Simon's house was crowded to the doors, not only with invited guests, but also with many of the common people, who, as was then the custom, were allowed to come to such gatherings and look on.

Now an Eastern supper table was made of three narrow tables arranged so as to form a hollow square open at one side. The guests lay upon long benches as sofas facing the centre.

Among those who waited upon Jesus as He sat at the supper in Simon's house, was Martha, who, with Mary her sister, was anxious to do all she could to show her gratitude to Jesus for all He had done for them in giving them back their brother Lazarus. When the supper was about half over, Mary also came

into the room, carrying in her hand a small jar of very precious perfume worth hundreds of dollars of our money, such as was sometimes poured upon the heads of kings as a sign of great honor and respect. Coming up softly behind Jesus as He reclined at the table, Mary now quietly emptied the precious perfume upon his feet, and wiped them with the hair of her head.

At once the whole house was filled with the rich scent of the perfume; but Judas, the disciple who afterwards betrayed his Master, exclaimed against Mary and what she had done, saying, "What foolishness! The perfume that this woman has wasted might better have been sold, and the money given to the poor!" Judas said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief and helped himself out of the purse which he carried for Jesus and the other disciples.

But Jesus was pleased with Mary's gift, and said to those who spoke against her, "Let