

1. *The supper.* Where? question the class as to the village (Matt. 21 : 17 ; Mark 11 : 1 ; Luke 19 : 29 ; John, ch. 11 ; 12 : 1 ; Luke 24 : 50, are some of the passages). Who made the supper? Possibly the villagers, John 12 : 2. Talk with the scholars about their gratitude and affection, and of how comforting it all was to Jesus, just about to go through those awful last days of His life on earth.

2. *Some of the guests.* Simon the leper, who had likely been healed by Jesus (see Exposition) : the supper was at his house ; Lazarus ; Martha, who "served," helped, as we would say ; the disciples ; and, chiefest of all, the sweet woman for the sake of whose good deed the story is told. Be careful of your time here ; for the main interest is in—

3. *What one guest did.* Matthew, v. 7, calls her "a woman." John (ch. 12 : 3) gives her name. Have the scholars repeat again what they know about her : recall especially Luke 10 : 38-42. Now for the details of what she did here—no danger of lack of interest. Bring out the points in which Mary's anointing differed from the ordinary anointing of guests : with her own hands, not by those of a servant ; with a very costly ointment ; wiped His feet with her long, flowing hair. What did it all mean? Surely that she loved her

Lord and Master much—oh, so very much!

4. *What some of the others said.* Who? Not Judas alone, but the other disciples as well, v. 8. But Judas, who was the treasurer, was evidently the leader in the murmuring, John 12 : 4-6. Tell what the Bible says about greed for money, as in Prov. 20 : 21 ; 28 : 20 ; 1 Tim. 6 : 9, 10.

5. *What Jesus answered,* vs. 10-13. The class may read the verses in concert. These are some of the points to be brought out : it is a "good work" to show love ; there is just as much religion in loving communion with Jesus in prayer or song as in giving to the poor—indeed those who love to be near Him, are generally those who do most for the poor ; Jesus loves sympathy : Mary's act comforted Him in the sad prospect of His death ; the gospel was to be preached in all the world (see His later saying, Mark 16 : 15) ; such devotion as Mary's is worthy of everlasting remembrance.

6. *A sad deed that followed.* Vs. 14-16 describe it. The details are given in the Exposition, and Light from the East. Judas' meanness ; his black ingratitude ; how his greed led him on to treachery and murder ; how cheaply he sold his honor and his soul ; these form a dark background against which Mary's act of love shines out.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

Our best gift to the Saviour is a grateful heart. v. 6.

Sweeter than the most exquisite perfume is the fragrance of a loving deed. v. 7.

No seed yields so rich a harvest as self-sacrifice. v. 8.

Where there is the root of love to God, the flower of kindness to men will not fail. v. 9.

If the Master commends, it is of little moment that men criticize. v. 10.

"We are born to do benefits." v. 11.

The secret of true immortality is love. v. 13

Treachery is blackest in one who has been greatly trusted. v. 14.

The world's largest reward is won too dearly by the loss of honor. v. 15.

Men build their destiny from within. v. 16.

Prove from Scripture

That diligence is a Christian duty.

Lesson Questions

[FROM THE HOME STUDY QUARTERLY]

Juniors—6, 7 Where was Bethany? When had Jesus come thither? Whose home was here? What miracle had Jesus wrought? In whose house was a supper now made for Him? What woman is specially mentioned? What did she bring? How did she use it?

8-11 Who found fault? What did they say should have been done? How did Jesus rebuke them? For what kind of people should we care? What should we always be ready to do for Jesus?

12, 13 What was about to happen to Jesus? For what did Mary prepare His body? Where would her deed be spoken of?