

April 4, 2020

A Week of Love - Part 1

Matt. 26:6-13, “While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

I would like to take a look at the week prior to the crucifixion. Many have termed it Passion Week. In many aspects, it certainly is. But, I would like to look at this week as a week of Love. We start with the Saturday before the day that Jesus was crucified. Jesus and His disciples had arrived earlier in Bethany (just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem). They were observing the day of rest and as they were, a woman came to Him and anointed him with very expensive perfume. It is interesting to note the response of the disciples. When they saw this, they were very upset and angered. Why would she waste this costly perfume? They even tell Jesus that they could have sold it at a high price and given the money to the poor. Now, observe the amazing way that Jesus showed His love in this situation. Instead of being angry at the twelve, He encourages the woman by saying to them that she has done a beautiful thing.

The disciples did not yet understand that Jesus was truly going to His death within the week. He had told them multiple times that this had to happen and yet it had not sunk in. This anointing was the picture of the preparation for burial! They still hadn't gotten it. Jesus was going to give His life for them and for us and for the whole world. John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. And that is what Jesus was about to do.... Have you taken what Jesus has done for you for granted? Do you realize what it cost Him to be put to death and carry the weight of the sins of the whole world? It is staggering and in many ways incomprehensible. 2 Cor. 5:21, “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Dear Father, thank You for Jesus! Thank You that Your love is greater than the sins of the whole world. Help me to see this every day of my life. In Jesus Name, Amen