

**John 12:1-3: Mary and the odor of her spikenard:**

What a beautiful NT picture of what Solomon wrote in Song 1:12. This was after the Lord Jesus had raised Lazarus from having been dead for (4) days. The King was sitting at the supper table with them; THIS was when Mary opened her box of ointment and anointed the Lord's feet.

*The house was filled with the odor of the ointment!*

It was the presence of the Lord Jesus that brought Mary to the supper, and it was her love and thankfulness to Him that brought out her ointment!

Her heart welled up with love and thankfulness to Him, not only for raising Lazarus, her brother from the dead, but because she loved Christ and loved to sit at His feet and hear His Word.

She expressed her love to Christ by opening her box of spikenard and anointing His feet. When she did, the beautiful aroma and fragrance of her "very costly" ointment, filled the house where the Lord Jesus was sitting at the table.

Beloved, if we come to "this house" with love to Christ in our hearts, expecting that we will be sitting at the King's table, the fragrance and aroma of "OUR LOVE to Christ" will fill this house like the fragrance of Mary's perfumed spikenard filled that house.

*If Christ would not have been at that supper, Mary's ointment of spikenard would not have been opened up!*  
*Keeping John 12 in mind, now to our text.*

**Song 1:12: "While the King sitteth at His table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof"**

This is the second time the bride has referred to the bridegroom as the king, the first time was in (V4): "The King hath brought me into His chambers", speaking of the intimacy between Christ and His church, and here (V12) the bride speaks of sitting WITH HIM at His table; in His presence, being fed by Him, in fellowship and communion with Him.

Both instances, (V4) and (V12) speak of BEING IN HIS PRESENCE, which is HOW we ought to desire to live our Christian lives in the world!

If you have a love for Christ (like Mary did), you will long to be in His presence, WHEN THIS IS TRUE ABOUT YOU, the fragrance and aroma of your love to Christ will spread, diffuse, and fill the place where you are...it will be hidden from no one, just like Mary's ointment filled the whole house where they were. The bride's spikenard gave forth it's sweet fragrance because she loved the King, and because she was with Him at His table.

*Psalm 42:1-8, 63:1-7*

**How do I come to experience this special love to Christ?**

You must come to know that the Christian life IS NOT lived by keeping a book of rules, outwardly complying with commandments, and external religious ordinances, it is a "new birth" and a "new life" (in which) we are united by faith TO the Lord Jesus Christ by the gospel!

1 Peter 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

Our faith, our hope, and our love to Christ should be ALIVE, lively, NOT dead, and lifeless! We love a Risen Saviour, not a religious system!

As a result of our "new birth", we seek the felt presence of God, in contrast to what we were before we were born again, we have a wholehearted desire to walk with Christ and in obedience to His Word. John 14:21-23

When we open our Bibles in our personal devotions, we SHOULD LONG to be in the presence of Christ! We must believe we are coming to the King's table, (into His Holy presence), to be fed and nourished by Him. When we gather together on Sunday's and Wednesday's we must come BY FAITH to sit at the King's table. Like Mary came to sit at Jesus' feet!

You MUST NOT come to a Bible and to your daily reading list, NO, you must come to the King's table, to commune with Him!

**And then, the second part of Song 1:12B: "WHILE the King sitteth at His table, THAT IS WHEN "my spikenard (saith the bride) sent forth its beautiful smell", its scent and sweet fragrance.**

Mary's ointment gave forth it's sweet fragrance because of her love to Christ. Beloved, if we come to our devotions, our prayers, "to the church gathering" with love to Christ in our hearts, seeking to come into the presence of Christ, to sit at the King's table, the sweet fragrance and aroma of "OUR LOVE to Christ" will fill our devotions, our prayers, and this house just like the fragrance of Mary's perfumed spikenard filled that house.

Mary's love for Christ WAS the fragrance of her spikenard!

When we (in our hearts) come into the presence of Christ, THAT is when we "learn Christ", that is when He communicates His love to us, and every grace that He has promised; every grace that we need!

That is when we communicate our love to Him!

To come to your devotions, your prayers, or to the church gathering without coming to Christ is to come to AN EMPTY TABLE, a table that is not set, a table which cannot feed your soul and spirit!

There is no sweetness in "Christianity without Christ"! Regrettably, there is a lot of "dead Christianity" in the world today! So many profess to know Christ, BUT there is NO LOVE for Christ in their hearts, and therefore, no aroma or

scent of grace from Christ coming forth from their lives!  
Your life Christian, should give off a sweet savor of Christ!

Ephesians 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Every place that we go, (in the world) beloved, and with every human with whom we speak and company, we should be spreading the sweet fragrance the love of Christ! To the saved and to the perishing!