

Matthew 26:6-13
Prepared for Burial

Back at Simon's House ...

- I. A Beautiful Thing
 - A. Sweet Devotion
 - B. Sour Protests
- II. Fitting for the Moment
 - A. In the Lord's Eyes
 - B. Solemn Preparation
- III. A Love Borne Legacy
 - A. Exemplary Tribute
 - B. Extravagant Love

... and one step closer to Calvary.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did Mary do to show her love for Jesus?
2. Why did the disciples have a problem with what she did?
3. What did Jesus say He was being prepared for?
4. What are some ways we can show our thanks to Jesus for loving us and dying for us?

Without Reservation

Set between the Chief priests' and elders' seething hatred of Jesus and the murderous plot and Judas' sinister collusion with them is one of the most beautiful and tender illustrations of love of all time. We find Mary, an ardent follower and close friend of Jesus displaying deep gratitude and devotion to Him by anointing him with extravagant perfumed oil. Her action was so compelling that Jesus said it would become world renown through the preaching of the Gospel. Despite the fact that her lovely tribute is tainted by the disciples' sneering disapproval and the Lord's mention of his own burial, it stands as a symbol of the kind of whole-hearted devotion Jesus is worthy of. By emptying the costly ointment on Jesus' body, Mary exemplifies pouring one's heart out in love for the Savior. She did this in response to who he was and what He had already done for her and her family. But while she apparently did have insight to what He was about to do, she would not know the full extent of His love for her until His work was complete – one can only imagine how profound her dedication would be then! If Jesus died for you, you know at least something of the value of what He has done. In response there is nothing worth holding back from Him. As the old hymn puts it: "love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross -

Isaac Watts 1709