

Mary's Love: 3 Meditations

Three: **FRAGRANCE**

John 12:3

Matt 26:8: "waste"

Mark 14:8: "beforehand"

Jn 12:3 "fragrance"

I. This odor **was** fragrant to Jesus

The power of odor: strong odors are immediately pleasant or unpleasant

NEG

Something detestable is described as a stench

Eg Genesis 34:30; Exod 7:18, 21 (fish); 8:14 (frogs)

POS

- Memory
- Hunger (eg. Gen 25:27-34 Esau)
- Romance (eg. Esther 2:12; Song 4:16; 5:1, 5)

OT sacrifices

Eg Burnt Offering of dedication: Lev 1:9

But when not offered in faith & obedience: Isa 1:13

Hope of time when God will accept His people as "fragrant incense"
(Ezek 20:41)

Mary's offering was fragrant to Jesus: He defended her

II. This odor **made** Jesus fragrant

Just a short time ago Lazarus stank (Jn 11:39): the odor of death.
Jesus restored him to life

Now Mary knows Jesus is going to die: anoints Him for His burial
But in God's providence she is anointing Him as a fragrant
sacrificial offering in His death!

Eph 5:1-2

III. This odor made **Mary** fragrant

Mary's hair was fragrant from the offering she made
The whole house was fragrant from her offering

So _____ in Christ are a fragrant offering to God
You please Him; He delights in you
You are the aroma of Christ to God (II Cor 2:15a)

And you _____ Him with your fragrant
Prayers (Rev 5:8)
Giving Phil 4:18 (cf Heb 13:15-16)
Evangelism (Rom 15:16)

But this was not fragrance to Judas (he immediately goes to betray
Jesus (Mk 14:10))

So the Gospel divides: II Cor 2:14-17

Your life, offered to Jesus, becomes a fragrance, drawing others to the
beauty of Christ.

Lord, make me a fragrance for You!