

~DENARIUS (153)

- A Roman silver coin that weighed about 3.85 grams (0.124 ounces troy) and hence would have a modern value of 74 cents. It bore a likeness of the head of Caesar and was the head tax coin exacted by the Romans from the Jews.
- Show me the **head tax coin**. They brought him a **denarius**. ([Matthew 22:19](#))
- And he said to them; Whose image and inscription is this? ([Matthew 22:20](#))
- They said; Caesar's. Then he said to them; Pay back, therefore, Caesar's things to Caesar, but God's things to God. ([Matthew 22:21](#))
- In the days of Jesus earthly ministry, agricultural laborers commonly received a **denarius** for a 12-hour workday.
- When he had agreed with the workers for a **denarius** a day, he sent them forth into his vineyard. ([Matthew 20:2](#))
- Hence. ([Revelation 6:6](#)) depicts an extreme condition in stating that a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley would cost a **denarius**, a full days wage.
- If the costly nard that Mary, Lazarus sister, used in greasing Jesus Christ had been sold for 300 denarii, nearly a year's wages, likely this would have meant that a sizable amount of money would have gone into the money box kept by Judas Iscariot. Little wonder that dishonest Judas Iscariot raised strong objections, since he would be unable to embezzle even a fraction of this large sum.
- Mary, therefore, took a pound of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very costly, and she greased the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house became filled with the scent of the perfumed oil. ([John 12:3](#))
- But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, who was about to betray him, said. ([John 12:4](#))

- **Why was it this perfumed oil was not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor people? (John 12:5)**
- **He said this, though, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief and had the money box and used to carry off the monies put in it. (John 12:6)**
- **Some, in fact, were imagining, since Judas was holding the money box, that Jesus was telling him; Buy what things we need for the festival, or that he should give something to the poor. (John 13:29)**
- **And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the meal, a woman came with an alabaster case of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very expensive. Breaking open the alabaster case she began to pour it upon his head. (Mark 14:3)**
- **At this there were some expressing indignation among themselves; Why has this waste of the perfumed oil taken place? (Mark 14:4)**
- **For this perfumed oil could have been sold for upward of three hundred denarii and been given to the poor! And they were feeling great displeasure at her. (Mark 14:5)**
- **But Jesus said; Let her alone. Why do you try to make trouble for her? She did a fine deed toward me. (Mark 14:6)**
- **For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want to you can always do them good, but me you do not have always. (Mark 14:7)**
- **She did what she could. She undertook beforehand to put perfumed oil on my body in view of the burial. (Mark 14:8)**
- **Truly I say to you, wherever the Good News is preached in all the world, what this woman did shall also be told as a remembrance of her. (Mark 14:9)**
- **And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. (Mark 14:10)**
- **When they heard it, they rejoiced and promised to give him silver**

money. So he began seeking how to betray him conveniently.
([Mark 14:11](#))

- The neighborly Samaritan of Jesus illustration spent two **denarii**, two days wages, to help an unknown stranger, and he declared himself willing to care for additional expenses in his behalf.
- But a certain Samaritan traveling the road came upon him and, at seeing him, he was moved with pity. ([Luke 10:33](#))
- So he approached him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine upon them. Then he mounted him upon his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ([Luke 10:34](#))
- And the next day he took out **two denarii**, gave them to the innkeeper, and said; Take care of him, and whatever you spend besides this, I will repay you when I come back here. ([Luke 10:35](#))
- By contrast, in one of Jesus illustrations emphasizing the need of being forgiving, a slave whose debt of **60,000,000 denarii** had been canceled was unwilling to pardon the **100-denarius** debt of a fellow slave.
- When he started to settle them, there was brought in a man who owed him ten thousand talents equaling **sixty-million denarii**. ([Matthew 18:24](#))
- But because he did not have the means to pay it back, his master ordered him and his wife and his children and all the things he had to be sold and payment to be made. ([Matthew 18:25](#))
- Therefore the slave fell down and began to do obeisance to him, saying; Be patient with me and I will pay back everything to you. ([Matthew 18:26](#))
- Moved to pity at this, the master of that slave let him off and canceled his debt. ([Matthew 18:27](#))
- But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves that was owing him a **hundred denarii**, and, grabbing him, he began to choke him, saying; Pay back whatever you owe. ([Matthew 18:28](#))

- **Therefore his fellow slave fell down and began to entreat him, saying; Be patient with me and I will pay you back. (Matthew 18:29)**
- **However, he was not willing, but went off and had him thrown into prison until he should pay back what was owing. (Matthew 18:30)**
- **When, therefore, his fellow slaves saw the things that had happened, they became very much grieved, and they went and made clear to their master all the things that had happened. (Matthew 18:31)**
- **Then his master summoned him and said to him, wicked slave, I canceled all that debt for you, when you entreated me. (Matthew 18:32)**
- **Ought you not, in turn, to have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I also had mercy on you? (Matthew 18:33)**