

~MARY 2 (436)

(Ma'ry) [from the Hebrew Miriam, possibly meaning Rebellious]

.. Sees Lazarus Resurrected

.. Anoints Jesus With Oil

- **Mary** the **sister of Martha and Lazarus**. At Bethany, about 2 Roman miles (2.8 kilometers)(1.7 miles) from the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and on the East slope of the Mount of Olives, Jesus visited the home of these friends for whom he had special affection.
- Now Bethany was near Jerusalem at a distance of about two miles. (**John 11:18**)
- During a visit by Jesus in the third year of his ministry, Martha, in her determination to be a good hostess, was overly concerned for Jesus physical comfort. **Mary**, on the other hand, showed a different kind of hospitality.
- She sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to his word. When Martha complained because her sister was not helping, Jesus commended Mary, saying; For her part, **Mary** chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her.
- Now as they were going their way he entered into a certain village. Here a certain woman named Martha received him as guest into the house. (**Luke 10:38**)
- This woman also had a sister called **Mary**, who, however, sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to his word. (**Luke 10:39**)
- Martha, on the other hand, was distracted with attending to many duties. So, she came near and said; Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her, therefore, to join in helping me. (**Luke 10:40**)
- In answer the Lord said to her; Martha, Martha, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. (**Luke 10:41**)
- A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, **Mary** chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her. (**Luke 10:42**)

## · Sees Lazarus Resurrected

- A few months after the aforementioned visit to the home, Lazarus became sick, near to death. So **Mary** and Martha sent word to Jesus, who was probably somewhere East of the Jordan in Perea.
- However, by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead four days. With the news of Jesus coming, Martha quickly went to greet him, while **Mary** kept sitting at home. Not until Martha returned from the outskirts of the village and whispered to her grief-stricken sister; The Teacher is present and is calling you, did **Mary** hasten out to meet him.
- At his feet she sobbed, Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. She used exactly the same words as those spoken by her sister when Martha first went to meet Jesus.
- On seeing **Mary's** tears and those of the Jews with her, the Master was moved to groan and weep. After Jesus performed the stupendous miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead, many of the Jews that had come to **Mary** to comfort her put faith in him.
- Now there was a certain man sick, Lazarus of Bethany, of the village of **Mary** and of Martha her sister. ([John 11:1](#))
- It was, in fact, the **Mary** that greased the Lord with perfumed oil and wiped his feet dry with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ([John 11:2](#))
- Therefore his sisters dispatched word to him, saying; Lord, see! the one for whom you have affection is sick. ([John 11:3](#))
- But when Jesus heard it he said; This sickness is not with death as its object, but is for the glory of God, in order, that the Son of God may be glorified through it. ([John 11:4](#))
- Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ([John 11:5](#))
- However, when he heard that he was sick, then he actually remained two days in the place where he was. ([John 11:6](#))
- Then after this he said to the disciples; Let us go into Judea again. ([John 11:7](#))

- **The disciples said to him; Rabbi, just lately the Judeans were seeking to stone you, and are you going there again? (John 11:8)**
- **Jesus answered; There are twelve hours of daylight, are there not? If anyone walks in daylight he does not bump against anything, because he sees the light of this world. (John 11:9)**
- **But if anyone walks in the night, he bumps against something, because the light is not in him. (John 11:10)**
- **He said these things, and after this he said to them; Lazarus our friend has gone to rest, but I am journeying there to awaken him from sleep. (John 11:11)**
- **Therefore the disciples said to him; Lord, if he has gone to rest, he will get well. (John 11:12)**
- **Jesus had spoken, however, about his death. But they imagined he was speaking about taking rest in sleep. (John 11:13)**
- **At that time, therefore, Jesus said to them outspokenly; Lazarus has died. (John 11:14)**
- **And I rejoice on your account that I was not there, in order for you to believe. But let us go to him. (John 11:15)**
- **Therefore Thomas, who was called The Twin, said to his fellow disciples; Let us also go, that we may die with him. (John 11:16)**
- **Consequently when Jesus arrived, he found he had already been four days in the memorial tomb. (John 11:17)**
- **Now Bethany was near Jerusalem at a distance of about two miles. (John 11:18)**
- **Accordingly many of the Jews had come to Martha and **Mary** in order to console them concerning their brother. (John 11:19)**
- **Therefore Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, met him, but **Mary** kept sitting at home. (John 11:20)**
- **Martha therefore said to Jesus; Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. (John 11:21)**

- **And yet at present I know that as many things as you ask God for, God will give you. (John 11:22)**
- **Jesus said to her; Your brother will rise. (John 11:23)**
- **Martha said to him; I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day. (John 11:24)**
- **Jesus said to her; I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life. (John 11:25)**
- **And everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this? (John 11:26)**
- **She said to him; Yes, Lord, I have believed that you are the Christ the Son of God, the One coming into the world. (John 11:27)**
- **And when she had said this, she went off and called **Mary** her sister, saying secretly; The Teacher is present and is calling you. (John 11:28)**
- **The latter, when she heard this, got up quickly and was on her way to him. (John 11:29)**
- **Jesus had not yet, in fact, come into the village, but he was still in the place where Martha met him. (John 11:30)**
- **Therefore the Jews that were with her in the house and that were consoling her, on seeing **Mary** rise quickly and go out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the memorial tomb to weep there. (John 11:31)**
- **And so **Mary**, when she arrived where Jesus was and caught sight of him, fell at his feet, saying to him; Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (John 11:32)**
- **Jesus, therefore, when he saw her weeping and the Jews that came with her weeping, groaned in the spirit and became troubled. (John 11:33)**
- **And he said; Where have you laid him? They said to him; Lord,**

- come and see. (**John 11:34**)
- Jesus gave way to tears. (**John 11:35**)
  - Therefore the Jews began to say; See, what affection he used to have for him! (**John 11:36**)
  - But some of them said; Was not this man that opened the eyes of the blind man able to prevent this one from dying? (**John 11:37**)
  - Hence Jesus, after groaning again within himself, came to the memorial tomb. It was, in fact, a cave, and a stone was lying against it. (**John 11:38**)
  - Jesus said; Take the stone away. Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to him; Lord, by now he must smell, for it is four days. (**John 11:39**)
  - Jesus said to her; Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God? (**John 11:40**)
  - Therefore they took the stone away. Now Jesus raised his eyes heavenward and said; Father, I thank you that you have heard me. (**John 11:41**)
  - True, I knew that you always hear me, but on account of the crowd standing around I spoke, in order, that they might believe that you sent me forth. (**John 11:42**)
  - And when he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice; Lazarus, come on out! (**John 11:43**)
  - The man that had been dead came out with his feet and hands bound with wrappings, and his countenance was bound about with a cloth. Jesus said to them; Loose him and let him go. (**John 11:44**)
  - Therefore many of the Jews that had come to **Mary** and that beheld what he did put faith in him. (**John 11:45**)

## •• Anoints Jesus With Oil

- Five days before Jesus last Passover, he and his disciples were guests again in Bethany, this time at the home of Simon the leper, where **Mary** and her family also were. Martha was serving the evening meal, Mary again gave her attention to the Son of God.
- As Jesus was reclining, **Mary** took a pound of perfumed oil, genuine nard, very costly, worth about a year's wages, and poured it on his head and feet.
- Not generally appreciated at the time, this act done out of love and regard for Jesus in reality signified the preparation for Jesus death and burial so near at hand.
- As before, **Mary's** expression of love was criticized by others, and as before, her love and devotion were defended and greatly appreciated by Jesus.
- While Jesus happened to be in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper. (**Matthew 26:6**)
- A woman with an alabaster case of costly perfumed oil approached him, and she began pouring it upon his head as he was reclining at the table. (**Matthew 26:7**)
- On seeing this the disciples became indignant and said; Why this waste? (**Matthew 26:8**)
- For this could have been sold for a great deal and been given to poor people. (**Matthew 26:9**)
- Aware of this, Jesus said to them; Why do you try to make trouble for the woman? For she did a fine deed toward me. (**Matthew 26:10**)
- For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. (**Matthew 26:11**)
- For when this woman put this perfumed oil upon my body, she did it for the preparation of me for burial. (**Matthew 26:12**)
- Truly I say to you, wherever this Good News is preached in all the world, what this woman did shall also be told as a remembrance of her. (**Matthew 26:13**)

- **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)**
- **Accordingly Jesus, six days before the Passover, arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus was whom Jesus had raised up from the dead. (John 12:1)**
- **Therefore they spread an evening meal for him there, and Martha was ministering, but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with him. (John 12:2)**
- **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](#))
- Therefore Jesus said; Let her alone, that she may keep this observance in view of the day of my burial. ([John 12:7](#))
- For you have the poor always with you, but me you will not have always. ([John 12:8](#))
- The above incident, **Mary's** anointing of Jesus, as reported by Matthew, Mark, and John, should not be confused with the anointing mentioned in;
- Now a certain one of the Pharisees kept asking him to dine with him. Accordingly he entered into the house of the Pharisee and reclined at the table. ([Luke 7:36](#))
- And, look! A woman who was known in the city to be a sinner learned that he was reclining at a meal in the house of the Pharisee, and she brought an alabaster case of perfumed oil. ([Luke 7:37](#))
- And, taking a position behind at his feet, she wept and started to wet his feet with her tears and she would wipe them off with the hair of her head. Also, she tenderly kissed his feet and greased them with the perfumed oil. ([Luke 7:38](#))
- At the sight the Pharisee that invited him said within himself; This man, if he were a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman it is that is touching him, that she is a sinner. ([Luke 7:39](#))
- But in reply Jesus said to him; Simon, I have something to say to you. He said; Teacher, say it! ([Luke 7:40](#))
- Two men were debtors to a certain lender, the one was in debt for five hundred denarii, but the other for fifty. ([Luke 7:41](#))
- When they did not have anything with which to pay back, he freely forgave them both. Therefore, which of them will love him

the more? (Luke 7:42)

- In answer Simon said; I suppose it is the one to whom he freely forgave the more. He said to him; You judged correctly. (Luke 7:43)
- With that he turned to the woman and said to Simon; Do you behold this woman? I entered into your house; You gave me no water for my feet. But this woman wet my feet with her tears and wiped them off with her hair. (Luke 7:44)
- You gave me no kiss, but this woman, from the hour that I came in, did not leave off tenderly kissing my feet. (Luke 7:45)
- You did not grease my head with oil, but this woman greased my feet with perfumed oil. (Luke 7:46)
- By virtue of this, I tell you, her sins, many though they are, are forgiven, because she loved much, but he who is forgiven little, loves little. (Luke 7:47)
- Then he said to her; Your sins are forgiven. (Luke 7:48)
- At this those reclining at the table with him started to say within themselves; Who is this man who even forgives sins? (Luke 7:49)
- But he said to the woman; Your faith has saved you, go your way in peace. (Luke 7:50)
- The two events have some similarities, yet there are differences. The earlier event, reported by Luke, took place in the northern district of Galilee, the later, in the south at Bethany in Judea.
- The earlier was in the home of a Pharisee, the later, in that of Simon the leper. The earlier anointing was by an unnamed woman publicly known to be a sinner, probably a prostitute, the later was by Martha's sister **Mary**. There was also more than a year's difference in time between the two events.
- Some critics complain that John contradicts Matthew and Mark in saying the perfume was poured on Jesus feet rather than on his head.
- A woman with an alabaster case of costly perfumed oil

- approached him, and she began pouring it upon his head as he was reclining at the table. (**Matthew 26:7**)
- 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**)
  - **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**)
  - **Commenting on;**
  - A woman with an alabaster case of costly perfumed oil approached him, and she began pouring it upon his head as he was reclining at the table. (**Matthew 26:7**)
  - **Albert Barnes says:** There is, however, no contradiction. She probably poured it both on his head and his feet. Matthew and Mark having recorded the former, John, who wrote his gospel in part to record events omitted by them, relates that the ointment was also poured on the feet of the Savior.
  - To pour ointment on the **head** was common. To pour it on the **feet** was an act of distinguished **humility** and attachment to the Savior, and therefore deserved to be particularly recorded. [**Barnes Notes on the New Testament, 1974**]