

## John 12:1

---

(1)

Think about [John 12:1-2](#).

*Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table.*

- Why did Lazarus, Martha and Mary give a dinner for Jesus when he returned to their town?
- During this banquet what was Martha doing? What was Lazarus doing?
- What was going to happen to Jesus on the upcoming Passover feast?  
Consider: [Matthew 26:2](#) (Jesus said to his disciples) *"You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."*

Note: The Passover was a feast God commanded the Jews to observe every year. The Passover meal included lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread. It was a reminder how God forced Pharaoh to set the Hebrews free from slavery in Egypt. On that night, God passed through the land of Egypt and struck dead all the firstborn. But, God "passed over" the homes that had the blood of the Passover lamb on the door, so that no one was destroyed in those homes.

(2)

Think about [John 12:3](#).

*Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

Note: Nard was an expensive perfumed ointment with a strong sweet smelling fragrance, similar to an essential oil.

- During this banquet what did Mary do?
- What do you think; why did Mary do this?  
Consider: [Luke 7:44-48](#) (In a similar circumstance Jesus said:) *"Do you see this woman? ... she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ... from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ... she has anointed my feet with ointment. ... she loved much. ..."*

(3)

Think about [John 12:4-6](#).

*But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

(A denarii was a day's wage.)

- During this banquet what did Judas do?
  - What things were true of Judas Iscariot?
- 

(4)

Think about [John 12:7-8](#).

*So Jesus said, "Let her alone, so that she may keep [the rest of] it for the day of My burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."*

- How did Jesus answer Judas' question?
  - In what two ways does Jesus foretell his death in these words?
- 

(5)

Think about [John 12:9-11](#).

*When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.*

- Why did a large crowd of Jews come to come to Bethany? (Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem.)
  - What plans did the Jewish religious rulers make for Lazarus? Why?
  - When "*many of the Jews were **going away** and believing in Jesus*", what were they going away from, and going to?
-