

Bi123 The Gospels 2

Lesson Bi123-13 Anointed & Betrayed

What happens when you hear really bad news? Some people try to withdraw and even hide from life. Others try to forget the event, as though it never happened. A few will be able to get a new focus and continue on to their goal in life. Jesus told the disciples at least three times that he would be killed by the religious leaders. Now he put a date on the event; it would happen in just two days. We learn how a woman and a man each responded to this news. We see the contrast between those who really loved Jesus and those who only pretended to love him.

When Jesus finished teaching his parables, he said to his disciples, “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified” (Matt 26:2). Jesus was informing the disciples that the time of instruction had ended. Now he would suffer for sin as predetermined by the Father. Jesus laid down his life according to the exact timetable and plan of God. God controlled what would happen next. Jesus was not a victim at the mercy of religious leaders or even by Satan.

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest Caiaphas. They schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

The 70-member Sanhedrin held an official meeting, to find a way to secretly capture and kill Jesus. They still feared the crowds, whom they viewed as deceived and ignorant. Many in the crowd had already experienced the power of Jesus. Most of the religious leaders had not. They planned to act only after the Passover feast, but God’s plan would prevail.

Later, while Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he reclined at the table.

This woman performed an amazing sacrifice. She entered where they were eating and poured this perfume on Jesus. It came in a polished, alabaster stone jar, both of which had probably come from the far land of India. The host of this event was Simon the Leper. He invited his Master, who no doubt had delivered him from leprosy. Otherwise no one would have dared come to a leper’s home.

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Not only Judas objected to this so-called ‘waste.’ Their objection about the poor had value, but something more important was happening. They completely missed that this was about the coming death of Jesus.

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you,

wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

Jesus’ death and burial were near, and this woman was expressing her deep love for him. Jesus came to the aid of this woman as he had done for others during his ministry. Men kept finding fault with women and Jesus kept encouraging women. He gave her a promise that her sacrificial deed would not be forgotten. Just as the perfume filled the room, so the spreading gospel and her generous deed would be remembered.

Then Satan entered Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve. He went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him 30 pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over (Matt 26:3-16).

Judas received for his betrayal 30 Jewish shekels. This was an average man’s wage for three months. Zechariah, the prophet, had foretold that God’s shepherd would be valued at that meager amount. The same price was paid to an Old Testament slave owner if his property was killed accidentally. It was a comparatively small sum of money. Judas surrendered to greed, to evil men, and to Satan himself. The religious leaders rejoiced, for with Judas’ help, their plan to get rid of Jesus would finally succeed.

This story is **important** because it shows the contrast between one woman who loved Jesus and the one man who betrayed him.

The **main truth** of this story is that the betrayal and death of Jesus were planned by God and Jesus fully surrendered to the plan. Judas and the religious leaders, who were without faith carried out the deed.

Let’s **review** this lesson—

1. Why did the woman pour the perfume onto Jesus during a meal?
A. [Pause] If you answered that she poured this perfume on his body to prepare him for burial, you are correct.
2. Why did the Sanhedrin want to have Jesus arrested secretly?
A. [Pause] If you answered that if they arrested him during the festival, they feared a riot among the people, you are right.
3. What was the price the leaders offered to give Judas to betray Jesus to them?
A. [Pause] If you answered, “Thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave,” you answered correctly.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to learn the story of these two contrasting individuals, so you can tell it from memory to someone who doesn’t know it. Then ask this question, “What do you think was the possible motivation for Judas to betray Jesus?” Remember that he kept the money bag for the disciples.