

## STORY 9: BEAUTIFUL

It was now six days before the Jewish feast of the Passover when many people came to Jerusalem for the feast and to worship at the Temple. Jesus arrived at Bethany where his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. This was the same Lazarus that Jesus had raised from the dead.

So Jesus was eating in Bethany at the home of Simon, who once had leprosy. Martha was there serving the food while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Jesus.

Mary entered the room with an alabaster jar (about a liter) of a very expensive and sweet-smelling perfume. She poured it on Jesus' head and also on his feet and then she wiped his feet with her hair. The whole house was filled with the sweet fragrance of the perfume.

But when his disciples saw this, they became angry and complained, "Why such a waste? We could have sold this perfume for a lot of money and given it to the poor." Then they started saying cruel things to the woman.

Jesus told them, "Leave her alone! Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you. And whenever you want to, you can give to them. But you won't always have me here with you. She has done all she could by pouring perfume on my body to prepare it for burial."

And then Jesus said, "You may be sure that wherever the good news is told all over the world, people will remember what she has done. And they will tell others."