

Giving to the King

Mary gives honour to Jesus

LESSON BACKGROUND: Mary anointed Jesus as an act of worship to give honour to Him. She recognised Jesus not only as the Messiah, but also as the King. Not only does this anointing allude to Jesus' death and burial, but it implies Jesus' kingship, since, in the Old Testament, the anointing of the head was often associated with the dedication of kings. Mary's anointing points to Christ's identity as the Messiah-King. Her actions clearly showed what was in her heart, yet little did she realise the prophetic implication of what she was doing.

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 26:6-13

KEY VERSE FOR THE MONTH: *"Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be."* Luke 12:34 TLB

BIG IDEA: "I can give honour to King Jesus with my actions."

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BIBLE MESSAGE – Mary honours Jesus with perfumed oil

INTRODUCTION

This month we're going to be learning about Jesus, our King and how we can give what is worthy to a King. Today's lesson is about giving honour. Do you know what honour is? It's giving high respect to someone who deserves it. If you had to meet a King, how would you give them honour? Would you bow down to them? Give them a gift? What would you do? Let's look at today's bible story and learn how one woman gave Jesus, our King, great honour.

<bible story video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkiUmR8OQWk&t=1s> or do this live message>

One day Jesus and His disciples were in Bethany at a man named Simon's house. While they were there, a woman named Mary, came to Jesus with a very expensive jar of perfume. Jesus was sitting at the table and Mary walked up to Him and poured the perfume on Jesus' head.

Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who would betray Him, got angry and said, "Why waste that perfume? It could be sold for a lot of money, and the money could be given to those who are poor." He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

Jesus was aware of everything Judas said and did. He told him to stop bothering Mary. He said that she had done a very good thing for him, and that the story of what she had done would be told forever.

You see, Mary didn't care about how much the perfume cost or how much money she could get by selling it. She simply wanted to show honour to Jesus, so she took something that was super valuable to her and gave it to Jesus!

Jesus knew He didn't have much time left before He would die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Back in this time period, when people died, they would put perfume on a body before they put it in the tomb.

Jesus felt the love she had for him and knew that what she was even doing was preparing him for what He was about to do. He recognised her for honouring Him, and what He was going to do. In a few short days, Jesus would die to take the punishment for the sins of all people. He did this because of His amazing love for us.

APPLICATION

So what can we learn from Mary's encounter with Jesus?

- Firstly, **Jesus is the King**. In the times of the Old Testament a king would be anointed with perfumed oil. Anointed is fancy word for pour, smear or massage. When someone is anointed it is a way of saying that God's favour is on them, that

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His presence is with them to do the thing that God has asked them to do. In the Old Testaments all the Kings chosen by God were anointed by priest. But did you know that Jesus is the ultimate King? There are many scriptures, like 1 Timothy 6:15 and many scriptures in Revelation, that tell us that Jesus is the King above all Kings. But Jesus wasn't anointed as King by a man, because God anointed Him. So when Mary poured the perfumed oil over Jesus' head in an act of honour, she didn't actually realise her actions announced to everyone that Jesus is the King. So we can call Him King Jesus Christ. I want you to always remember that Jesus is the King of kings that rules. So when things seem crazy and out of control, you can be sure that King Jesus is in control – go to Him and trust Him.

What else can we learn from Mary anointing Jesus?

- **Giving honour costs us something.** We learnt earlier that honour is giving someone the respect they deserve. This can be done with our words or actions. Mary used her actions to give honour to King Jesus. But it cost her a lot. Firstly, the perfumed oil that she poured was very expensive. If she had sold that, it would have given her enough money to live off for a year. But it also cost her giving up pride. She humbled herself, and didn't care what other people thought of her, and bravely anointed Jesus. As a Christ-follower your actions can show honour to Jesus. Of course, you can't pour perfumed oil on His head, but how you live your life, how you treat others and how you grow in your friendship with God, honours Him.

Our Big Idea today is **"I can give honour to King Jesus with my actions."** Just like Mary gave honour and gave up something to show King Jesus honour, you can too. Think of what you can do this week to show King Jesus honour.

Our Memory Verse is *"Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be."* Luke 12:34 TLB In this scripture, treasure is talking about the stuff that we have. Mary clearly didn't care about the stuff she had, because Jesus was more important than an expensive jar of perfumed oil. Her actions showed us where her heart and thought were and that was with giving honour and praise to Jesus. Where is your treasure?

Let's pray:

Dear God, thank you for giving us the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. Help us to live our lives so we honour our King, while pointing the world to Jesus. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.