

13. JESUS IS ANOINTED BY MARY



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

Bible Reference

John 12: 1-8

Memory Verse

Psalm 116:12

How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?

Bible Background

In all four Gospels we find the report of a woman anointing Jesus. But Luke clearly states that the one anointing Jesus was a sinful woman who thanked Him for forgiving her. The incident mentioned does not happen in Bethany and not in connection with the Passover. The other three Gospels tell of an anointing in Bethany meant to prepare Jesus for his burial. The story in this lesson will be told according to the Gospel of John.

Did Mary know that great suffering awaited Jesus? Did she know that this supper would be her last chance to express her love to Jesus before his death? We don't know, but we are told that Jesus accepted her love gift as preparation for his burial. Mary's perfume was of great value, a year's wage. A few drops of that expensive perfume might have been enough. But Mary broke the bottle and poured all of its content on Jesus' body. Jesus understood that the one who loves never counts the cost. He defended Mary against the criticism of Judas Iscariot, who counted greedily.

May the story of Mary of Bethany and the question contained in the memory verse challenge us and our children to love Jesus with all of our heart and think of ways to respond to God's goodness in our own life.



UNDERSTANDING THE AIM

Through this lesson the children will:

- understand that Mary anointed Jesus out of love
- long to respond to the love and kindness of Jesus
- show their love to others in Jesus' name.

Materials Required

1. Pictures I. 13,1 Mary; I. 13,2 Judas
2. Cardboard, 21 x 42 cm, to paste the two pictures on
3. A piece of cardboard for each child, 10 x 15 cm
4. Colored pencils
5. 25 cm of ribbon

Practical Preparation

1. Cut out the pictures of Mary and Judas and paste them on circles which are cut out of thick paper.
2. Cut the ribbon in two and fasten pieces on the back of the two circles, so that the left and right hand can be slipped into it and the pictures can be shown at the same time.
3. Cut a pattern of a bottle of perfume for each child. In their time for activity they will decorate it and write the memory verse on it.

GUIDING THE CHILDREN THROUGH THE LESSON

Creating Interest

Story: Melani's Love Gift to Her Mother

Melani did not like washing the dishes or sweeping and washing the kitchen floor after doing the dishes. This work seemed very boring to her. She would rather run out to play with her friends who were always waiting for her.

But one day, Melani went into the kitchen without her mother telling her. She started to wash the dishes and did not forget to wash the pots and pans. Afterwards she swept the floor and even washed it, until it was very clean.

When Mother saw Melani work diligently, it was a happy surprise for her, but she did not say anything right away, because she was taking care of Melani's baby brother.

In the evening, when Melani sat close to her, Mother asked, "Melani, this afternoon you worked so diligently in the kitchen without being told. Why did you do that?" Then Melani told her mother, "Mother, today I wanted to show you that I really love you. I kept remembering how tired you were yesterday, when you prepared my birthday cake, so that I could invite my friends. So this afternoon I wanted to thank you by working in the kitchen without being told to do so."

Children, do you think Melani's mother was happy with the way Melani said thank you to her? I am sure she was.

Review the Stories of the Family in Bethany

For two weeks we have been listening to stories about two sisters and their brother,

which happened in the little town of Bethany.

Who can still remember their names?

Who was the best friend of Martha, Mary and Lazarus?

What did the Lord Jesus do to Lazarus after Lazarus had died?

The Lord Jesus had done many good things for Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

They must have asked each other, "How can we repay the Lord Jesus for all his goodness to us?"

Then, one day, Mary thought of a way to say thankyou to Jesus.

Telling the Bible Story

A Supper Invitation in Bethany

For the last time, the Lord Jesus was going to Jerusalem together with his disciples. He taught them many things while they were walking. Finally they arrived at the Mount of Olives, and near by was the village of Bethany.

"Let us go and see Mary, Martha and Lazarus," Jesus said. The disciples were happy to go there. In Bethany they were always welcome. Maybe they could stay there overnight!

When Jesus and his disciples arrived in Bethany, a meal was prepared for them. Martha served the food. Her face looked so happy. Jesus had raised their brother and given him back to them. She did not complain anymore; her love to Jesus made her work seem easy. Later still other guests dropped in to see Lazarus whom Jesus had called out of the tomb. There he sat at the table alive and happy. He looked at Jesus feeling so thankful to him!

Mary Brings a Love Gift to Jesus

But where was Mary? While the guests enjoyed the delicious food, which was brought in from the kitchen, Mary went back to her house. She had seen everyone looking so happy at the dinner. But Mary could not forget Jesus' words that he was going to Jerusalem, where he would have to suffer and die. Mary's heart was so sad to think about the suffering of Jesus that would begin very soon. She wanted to show her love to Jesus. But how could she do this?

Mary owned a bottle of very expensive perfume. The perfume was her biggest treasure. When Mary thought about that bottle, she knew all of a sudden, what she would do to show her love to the Lord Jesus. She took her bottle and went back to Simon's house. Without being noticed Mary slipped into the dining room. Slowly she approached Jesus and knelt near his feet. She broke the neck of the bottle and poured the perfume on Jesus' feet. The fragrant smell of the perfume filled the whole house, because Mary had not used just a few drops of that expensive perfume, but had poured it all on Jesus. Then she dried his feet with her hair.

Judas Criticizes Mary's Gift

Jesus' disciples were amazed at what Mary had done. But Judas spoke up with a harsh voice demanding, "why was that fragrant perfume not sold for a high price and the money given to the poor?"

Judas' words sounded very good, but his heart was not right! He pretended to think about the poor, but that was not actually why Judas was angry. He was the one who carried the bag in which the offerings for Jesus and his disciples were put. Sometimes Judas stole from the money. He loved money more than he loved his Lord Jesus!

Jesus Justifies Mary

Jesus knew that Judas loved money. Jesus also knew that Mary had poured her precious expensive perfume on him because she loved him. Therefore he said, "Judas, listen! Why are you scolding Mary? She has done something very beautiful to me. The poor are always around you. You can help them at anytime. But I will not be with you forever. Soon I will leave you. I will be put to death and be buried. With her perfume, Mary has prepared my body to be buried. I tell you, wherever the Gospel will be preached, what Mary has done will be told also, so that everyone will know, how much she loved me."

Application and Response

Discussing the Pictures

The teacher slips the two pictures on the left and right hand. He holds up the picture of the person who is being talked about.

Children, look at the picture of Mary.
Can you describe her face?
What does she have in her hands?
To whom will she give this precious gift?
Why does she give it to Jesus?
What did Jesus say about Mary's gift?



Now look at the picture of Judas.
Can you describe his face?
Why is Judas angry?
What does Judas hold in his hands?
What did Judas do sometimes?
What did Jesus say to Judas?



Mary thought about Jesus and his coming suffering. She wanted to comfort him through her loving action. Judas only thought of himself. Because of that he finally failed. When we talk of Judas today, we only remember, that he betrayed the Lord Jesus. But when we talk of Mary, we remember how much she loved Jesus, and that she gave a very costly gift to him.

Memory Verse

The teacher reads the memory verse for the children. The memory verse is a question! This question was in the hearts of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Now we will put in our heart by learning the memory verse by heart.

Discussion: Repaying Love to Jesus

Can we repay the Lord Jesus' love?

How can we do it?

I am sure you still remember how Melani repaid her mother's love. Because she really loved her mother, she remembered something that could make her mother happy.

If we really love the Lord Jesus, we surely can think of something that will please him.

Jesus would be pleased if we love our father, mother, brothers and sisters.

Jesus would be pleased if we forgive friends who are bothering us.

Jesus would be pleased if we thank him for his blessings.

Jesus would be pleased if we obey our parents and teachers.



Activity: Making a Memory Verse Card

The teacher shows a sample picture of a perfume bottle. Then the pictures are given to the children. Those who are able, write the memory verse on the picture. Those who cannot write well yet can just write three words: "Thank you Jesus". After that every child decorates his/her picture creatively. When the picture is taken home it will remind the children of this important question. How can I repay God for all his goodness?