

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## MARY ANOINTS JESUS

In the life of Christ, we find a time when a woman came and poured expensive ointment on Him (Matt. 26:7). From John's account, we learn that Mary, Lazarus' sister, is the one who did this (Jn. 12:3). As this ointment was poured upon Christ, we learn that some did not like what she had done. Matthew says it was "*his disciples*" who complained, and John gets more specific, naming Judas as one of those who had a problem with this gift, complaining that it could have been "*sold for three hundred pence and given to the poor*" (Jn. 12:5). John continues by declaring that Judas only did this because he had the "bag" and was a thief (Jn. 12:6). Evidently, Judas thought if the oil's price had been donated to the Lord, then he could get his hands on the money, whereas to be used in this manner was considered a

"waste" (Matt. 26:8). Jesus corrected the naysayers by saying that this was done in preparation for His coming burial (Matt. 26:12; Jn. 12:7). In a room of people who still did not comprehend the idea that Christ would die soon, it no doubt shocked them to hear Jesus say she was doing something in preparation for His burial. Matthew also records Christ saying, "*Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her*" (Matt. 26:13). In keeping with Christ's command, we should speak about this act as a memorial to this generous lady. What does the pouring of this oil upon Christ teach us? **This Was An Act Of Faith.** Remember, Jesus said this was done "to

*prepare me for burial*” (Matt. 26:12, ESV). She was acting in faith for what was to come soon. The others did not believe Jesus would die at this point. They awaited an earthly kingdom ruled by Jesus. Yet, this lady understood and made this attempt to “do what she could” for the Lord. She had listened to the Lord long enough that she understood what His real work was! **This Was An Act Of Courage.** When we read Matthew 26 and John 12, it is apparent that though Jesus is surrounded by several, she is the only one acting in this manner. It takes courage to do something when no one else is. We can add to this the fact that when she started to anoint Jesus, the disciples complained loudly about what she was doing. Yet, she continued to act in faith. Certainly, this would take courage to continue when others protested. **This Was An Act Of Generosity.** As noted by the complaining people, the oil she used was expensive. “*Three hundred pence*” (denarii, shillings, coins, Jn. 12:5) might be roughly equated to about a year’s wages. Where did she get the money for that? Some might conjecture about her past, but the truth is that we are not told. It was stated as a matter of fact that she

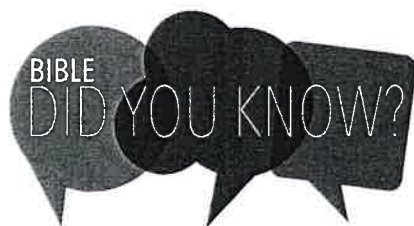
possessed this and she offered it to the Lord. This dear lady poured out a year’s wages in a matter of moments! Was this wasteful? Though Judas and others claimed so (Matt. 26:8), the truth is this was a great act of generosity toward her Savior! In that light, we see that though the price of oil paled in comparison to the One she anointed, this was an act of great generosity on her part. **A Memorial** Why should we remember this act? First, it is a memorial to her for what she did for the Lord. Also, does this not also show us how we need to act? We as Christians need to act in faith, in courage, and in generosity as we trod this earth. It is apparent that this is needed more and more as our society continues to get worse! As time goes on, it will be harder to be a Christian, and so we need to have the faith, courage, and generosity of heart to follow the Lord and be faithful to the very taking of our lives (Rev. 2:10)! Let us never forget the actions of this meek and blessed lady! May we obey the Lord’s commands and teach her example everywhere the gospel is preached!

*“And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And*

***the disciples were called  
Christians first in Antioch.***

In this passage, we get insight into the events surrounding the teaching that was happening in Antioch in those early days when the gospel was spread. Barnabas was sent by the church at Jerusalem to preach, and after being there a while, he went to Tarsus to get Saul and bring him to Antioch to help in this effort (Acts 11:22-25). Once he got there, the text says he and Barnabas continued a year preaching in Antioch. When I read about the work being done at this time, I see a time of great activity, constant preaching, and good works happening with Barnabas, and Saul working to spread the word. It is at this time that the Bible says, *"the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."* This is a significant phrase that is sometimes overlooked today. Why is this significant? It is significant because a name had been promised by God for His people centuries earlier. Isaiah 56:5, 62:2, and 65:15 state that God would one day give His people a "better" name than sons and daughters, an "everlasting" name, a "new" name and "another" name. When did this happen? It happened at Antioch! At this time, *"the*

*disciples were called Christians first in Antioch"*! How do we know that the phrase "were called" does not refer to a name they called themselves or a name that men, perhaps those persecuting them, gave them? We know this because the two words "were called" in English came from one word ("chrematizo") in the Koine Greek. Chrematizo is an important word. It means, "to utter an oracle, i.e., divinely intimate; be called, be admonished (warned) of God. – Jarrod Jacobs



***After suffering a little  
while God will establish  
you. "After you have  
suffered for a little while,  
the God of all grace,  
who called you to His  
eternal glory in Christ,  
will Himself perfect,  
confirm, strengthen and  
establish you. To Him  
be dominion forever and  
ever. Amen."  
1 Peter 5:10-11***

# BIBLE TRIVIA

## C H A L L E N G E

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. **The rich and the poor have a common \_\_\_\_\_, the LORD is the maker of them all.**
  - a) Form
  - b) Bond
  - c) Haircut
  - d) Speech
2. **The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) Skittles
  - b) Money
  - c) Life
  - d) Fame
3. **The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) Slave
  - b) Uncle
  - c) Partner
  - d) Gardener
4. **He who loves purity of heart and whose speech is gracious, the king is his \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a) Guard
  - b) Enemy
  - c) Barber
  - d) Friend
5. **The mouth of an \_\_\_\_\_ is a deep pit; he who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it.**
  - a) Owl
  - b) Angel
  - c) Adulteress
  - d) Evangelist
6. **Do not rob the poor because he is poor, or crush the \_\_\_\_\_ at the gate.**
  - a) Afflicted
  - b) Claustrophobic
  - c) Ticklish
  - d) Hairy
7. **Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest, so \_\_\_\_\_ is not fitting for a fool.**
  - a) Rhyming
  - b) Honor
  - c) Dancing
  - d) Baking
8. **As the door turns on its hinges, so does the \_\_\_\_\_ on his bed.**
  - a) Antsy
  - b) Anxious
  - c) Hungry
  - d) Sluggard
9. **Let another \_\_\_\_\_ you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.**
  - a) Tickle
  - b) Invite
  - c) Praise
  - d) Kiss
10. **A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naïve \_\_\_\_\_ and pay the penalty.**
  - a) Whistle
  - b) Laugh
  - c) Think
  - d) Proceed

- 1) B, Reference: Prov. 22:2  
 2) C, Reference: Prov. 22:4  
 3) A, Reference: Prov. 22:7  
 4) D, Reference: Prov. 22:11  
 5) C, Reference: Prov. 22:14  
 6) A, Reference: Prov. 22:22  
 7) B, Prov. 26:1  
 8) D, Prov. 26:14  
 9) C, Prov. 27:2  
 10) D, Prov. 27:12