

PRETEEN PARCHMENT

She did what she could

Mark 14:1 In only two days the eight-day Festival of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin. The high priests and religion scholars were looking for a way they could seize Jesus by stealth and kill him. 2 They agreed that it should not be done during Passover Week. "We don't want the crowds up in arms," they said.

3 Jesus was at Bethany, a guest of Simon the Leper. While he was eating dinner, a woman came up carrying a bottle of very expensive perfume. Opening the bottle, she poured it on his head. 4 Some of the guests became furious among themselves. "That's criminal! A sheer waste! 5 This perfume could have been sold for well over a year's wages and handed out to the poor." They swelled up in anger, nearly bursting with indignation over her.

6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why are you giving her a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. 7 You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives. Whenever you feel like it, you can do something for them. Not so with me. 8 She did what she could when she could—she pre-anointed my body for burial. 9 And you can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she just did is going to be talked about admiringly."

10 Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the cabal of high priests, determined to betray him. 11 They couldn't believe their ears, and promised to pay him well. He started looking for just the right moment to hand him over.



The plant, *Nardostachys Jatamansi*, from which nard comes.

Questions

1. Judas was paid.....to betray Jesus. Hint: look up Matthew 26:14-16
2. I think the woman poured the perfume on Jesus's head because
3. The sea to the West of Jerusalem is called the Me.....ean Sea, and the sea to the East is called the D..... Sea.
4. The Passover commemorated the E.....
5. The feast of unleavened bread was a time of
6. The perfume was worth about
7. Some of the people rebuked the woman because
8. Jesus says she did 'a beautiful thing'. Why was it beautiful?



The Poor

Did you know that when Jesus said, "the poor you will always have with you", he was referring to an Old Testament command?

Deut. 15:11 "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

God has always been concerned for the poor and the vulnerable.

Nard

It was "very precious". It is the root of an Indian plant, the *Nardostachys jatamansi*, of the family of Valerianaceae, growing on the Himalaya mountains. It is distinguished by its having many hairy spikes shooting out from one root. It is called by the Arabs sunbul Hindi, "the Indian spike." *From Easton's Bible Dictionary*

Alabaster Jar

"These were made from a stone found near Alabastron in Egypt, and from this circumstance the Greeks gave them the name of the city where they were made. The name was then given to the stone of which they were made; and finally to all perfume vessels, of whatever material they were formed. The woman "broke" the vessel; i.e., she broke off, as was usually done, the long and narrow neck so as to reach the contents. This stone resembles marble, but is softer in its texture, and hence very easily wrought into boxes." *From Easton's Bible Dictionary*

