



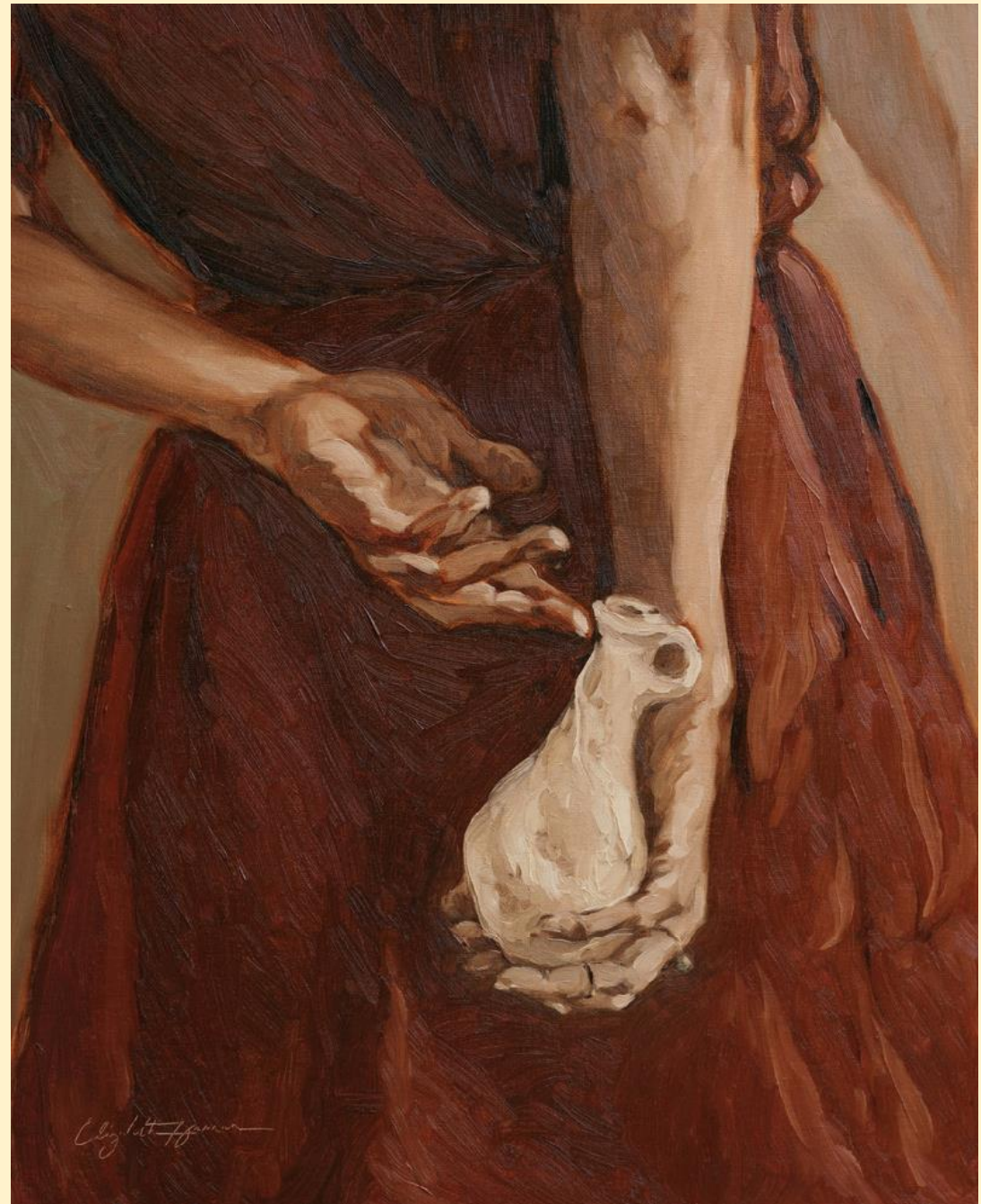
# **A Prepared Response**

**Mark 14:1-11**

**Two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the chief priests and the experts in the law were trying to find a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. For they said, “Not during the feast, so there won’t be a riot among the people.”**



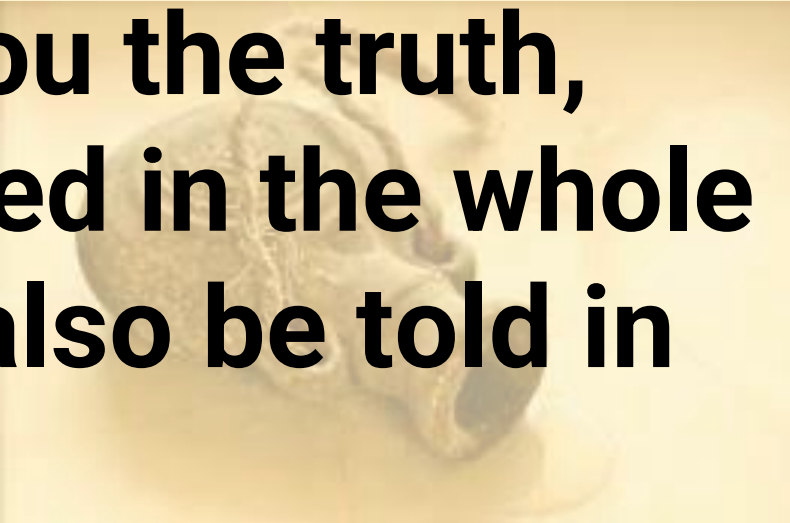
**Now while Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of costly aromatic oil from pure nard. After breaking open the jar, she poured**



**But some who were present indignantly said to one another, “Why this waste of expensive ointment? It could have been sold for more than 300 silver coins and the money given to the poor!” So they spoke angrily to her.**



**But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a good service for me. For you will always have the poor with you, and you can do good for them whenever you want. But you will not always have me! She did what she could. She anointed my body beforehand for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”**



**Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus into their hands.**

**When they heard this, they were delighted and promised to give him money. So Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray him.**



**One  
Two  
Three  
Anointings?**



	<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<b>Text</b>	26:6-13	14:3-9	7:36-50	12:1-8
<b>Woman</b>	Anonymous	Anonymous	Anonymous	Mary (sister of Lazarus)
<b>When?</b>	2 days before Passover	2 days before Passover	Early in Jesus's ministry	6 days before Passover
<b>Where?</b>	Home of Simon the leper (Bethany)	Home of Simon the leper (Bethany)	Home of Simon the Pharisee (possibly town of Nain; see John 7:11)	Home unstated; Mary, Martha, and Lazarus involved (Bethany)
<b>Jesus's position</b>	Reclined at table	Reclined at table	Reclined at table	Unstated
<b>Anointing</b>	Perfume poured on head	Perfume poured on head	Ointment and tears on feet; wiped with hair	Perfume poured on feet; wiped with hair
<b>Ointment Case</b>	Alabaster flask	Alabaster flask	Alabaster flask	12oz jar
<b>Response of onlookers</b>	Disciples object	"Some" disciples object	Simon objects	Judas objects
<b>Primary objection</b>	Cost of perfume waster	Cost of perfume wasted	Sinfulness of woman	Cost of perfume wasted
<b>Response of Jesus</b>	Rebukes disciples	Rebukes disciples	Rebukes Simon	Rebukes Judas
<b>Next event</b>	Judas leaves, conspires with chief priests to turn Jesus over	Judas leaves, conspires with chief priests to turn Jesus over	Unstated	Chief priests conspire to kill Lazarus
<b>Jesus's conclusion</b>	She will be remembered & You always have the poor, but won't always have me	She will be remembered & You always have the poor, but won't always have me	She is forgiven; tells parable	You always have the poor, but won't always have me
<b>Reason for anointing</b>	For burial	For burial	Unstated (Presumably worship and repentance)	For burial





**Mark 14:1-11**  
Contrast  
Complaint  
Commendation

# Contrast: Setting the Back Drop



Passover  
Simon the Leper  
With Lazarus

# Contrast: Three Responses

1. The Preservation of Religion and Influence
  1. The Potential of Personal Gain and Money
  1. The Pouring Out of All Potential for Personal Gain, with No Thought to Preserving Her Reputation, So That Her Influence Was the Fragrance of Extravagant Love.

But in every case, whether for gifts, or for pleasure, or for sacred uses of consecration or burial, it was not the intrinsic value of the ointment, but the thought which went with it, that gave it significance. It represented deep heart feeling, loyalty; deep religious consecration; sorrow and hope.



# Complaint: Criticism is not Concern



Too Much  
The Wrong Use  
A Waste

# Complaint: You Might Be Criticized

1. Extravagance is the only reasonable reasonable
1. Not a dismissal of the poor, acknowledgment of her perfect timing
1. Nothing is Wasted in the presence of the Lord.



The Ultimate  
Source of Criticism  
and Complaints is  
Believing Less of  
Jesus than We Ought



# Commendation: Stop Bothering Her



A command to immediately cease what they were doing.



# Commendation: Three Reasons

1. She Did a Good Thing

1. She Did What She Could

1. She Prepared Me for My Burial



*I have been reflecting on the inestimable value of "broken things." Broken pitchers gave ample light for victory (Judg.7:19-21); broken bread was more than enough for all the hungry (Matt.14:19-21); broken box gave fragrance to all the world (Mark 14:3); and broken body is salvation to all who believe and' receive the Savior (Isaiah 53:56). And what cannot the Broken One do with our broken plans, projects, and hearts?*



**The  
Aroma of  
Death Has  
Changed**

