

Albert Blok

The anointing at Bethany

'Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment'.

'There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head'.

'There came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head'.

John 12:3; Matthew 26:7; Mark 14:3

How wonderful was the act by Mary as she honoured the One whom she deeply loved and appreciated. We see this in that she poured out on the Lord this ointment of very great price, thereby showing her evaluation of Him – much more than her precious ointment, which had the value of a year's wages.

How wonderful to see this account told three times. The first one we mentioned here is in John, the gospel that shows the Lord as the Son of God. In this gospel Mary, led by the Holy Spirit honours Him by means of the outflowing of a full heart, but she knows her place: at His feet. She, like John the Baptist, understood the greatness of this One. Previously John had said that he was not worthy even to unloose His shoe latch, and, 'He must increase and I must decrease'. And in so doing she anoints the Lord's feet.

But in Matthew, the gospel showing the Lord as the Messiah and King of Israel, we see Mary (although unnamed) anointing His head and in so doing giving Him the honour that was rightly His as King. Although rejected by His people, she delighted to honour Him.

So in Mark where we see the Lord as the perfect Servant, how fitting it is that she also anoints His head – the perfect Servant, exalted and lifted up. And we remember the words in Philippians chapter 2: ‘He made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father’.

How wonderful to see the perfections of Scripture. May we be more like Mary, giving Him the highest honour with the reverence He is due.

Source: Christian Service Bulletin, October 2020

OudeSporen 2020

