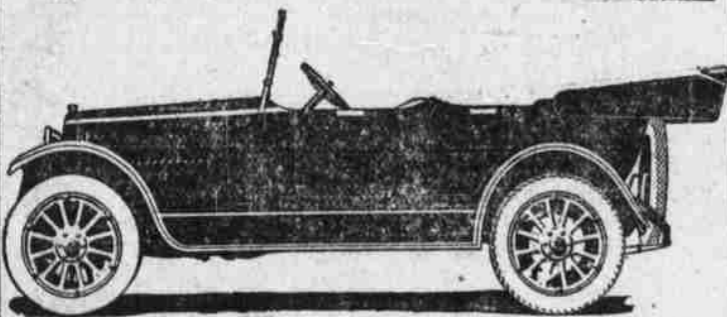


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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. F. E. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)  
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### LESSON FOR MARCH 6

#### JESUS AMONG HIS FRIENDS.

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 26:1-13.  
GOLDEN TEXT—She hath done what she could.—Mark 14:8.  
REFERENCE MATERIAL—Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8.  
PRIMARY TOPIC—Showing Our Love for Jesus.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—Giving Our Best.  
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Our Best for Christ.  
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Liberality of Love.

#### I. The Jewish Authorities Plotting the Death of Jesus (vv. 1-5).

1. Christ's Fourth Prediction of His Death (vv. 1, 2). He, with divine insight, predicted not only the fact of His death, but its time and manner. Death was no surprise to Him. For this He pre-eminently came into the world (Heb. 2:14). He calmly walked up to death.

2. The Authorities Plotting (vv. 3-5). In secret conclave they were plotting how they might silence His voice by putting Him to death. It was the divine purpose that He should go to death. They in their wickedness were plotting to do that which the divine plan had ordained. They try by subtlety to take and kill Him. Their plan was to do this after the Pass-over feast, lest there be an uprising among the people. Satan, through his conspirators, was trying to hinder the offering of the sacrificial Lamb at the appointed time.

#### II. Jesus Anointed by Mary of Bethany (vv. 6, 7).

For the identification of Mary see John 12:1-8 and Mark 14:3-9. This anointing occurred when Jesus was at meat in Simon's house. Mary had the keenest spiritual apprehension of all the disciples. By sitting at His feet in loving fellowship she obtained a grasp of truth which none of the other disciples did. She saw that His body was to be broken and that His precious life was to go out. She entered into fellowship with His sufferings and the joys of His resurrection. This is shown in this wonderful symbolic act of bringing her most precious possession and lavishing it upon Him. Knowing that no loving hand could minister to Him in that dread hour, she did this service in loving anticipation. It was the highest expression of love. Genuine love takes no account of cost—is not calculating.

#### III. The Indignation of the Disciples (vv. 8, 9).

The utter baseness of the disciples is in strange contrast with Mary's love. Judas Iscariot is the leader, but the whole apostolic company are led over. The spirit of fault finding is very contagious. The one whose heart is filled with base purposes can offer such plausible reasons for things that a whole company can be swept off their feet, not perceiving the real purpose underlying it all. The real thing that hurt Judas was the losing of the money which the ointment might have been sold for, not that he cared for the poor.

#### IV. Mary Defended by Jesus (vv. 10-13).

Jesus would not allow His most appreciative disciple to lie under the censure, so He came to her rescue. Though all the disciples censured her, He had nothing but the highest praise. If we can but have His praise, what need we care for the censure of men! He bestowed upon her the very highest praise possible when He said, "She hath done what she could." (Mark 14:8). In this defense Jesus teaches, according to Doctor Erdman:

1. That no gift to Him can be too great if made in grateful love (v. 10). "She hath wrought a good work on me."

2. Care for the poor and other duties which are of perpetual obligation may give way before an opportunity for service which cannot recur (v. 10). "The poor ye have with you always." Sometimes even charity is not the highest expression of Christian devotion.

3. Jesus appreciates the meaning and motive of our service (v. 12). He estimates them at their highest possible value and interprets them in the light of His own love and knowledge. He declared that the ointment poured upon Him was a preparation of His body for burial.

4. The influence of an act of Christian service will never cease (v. 13). The example of Mary is still filling the earth with the fragrance of loving service. Through this act of uncalculating love Mary's name has become immortalized.

As the result of this defense Judas is so stingingly rebuked that he hastens away to betray his Lord.

#### For the Rich Man.

The only way for a rich man to be healthy is by exercise and abstinence, to live as if he was poor; which was esteemed the worst parts of covetousness.—Sir W. Temple.

#### God Will Provide.

If I am faithful to the duty of the present, God will provide for the future.—Roddell.

#### Wants Experience.

All is but lip-wisdom which wants experience.—Sir P. Sidney.



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