

## Holy Week: Wednesday

(For a full account of the events of this day, see [Matthew 26:6–16](#), [Mark 14:3–11](#), [Luke 22:3–6](#).)

The past several days have been a rush of tension and anger for Jesus's opponents—and of unflinching resolve and faithfulness for Jesus. Words have been his currency, and he's spent piles of them. But on the Wednesday before his death, Jesus is still.

He is in the home of Simon the Leper, a man known by what's wrong with him. During their meal together, Mary of Bethany—Lazarus's sister ([John 12:3](#))—comes to Jesus with an alabaster flask of perfume. She's been saving this perfume, worth a year's wages, for this exact occasion ([John 12:7](#)). She begins pouring it on Jesus's head and feet, which requires breaking open its container ([Mark 14:3](#)). Like popping the cork on a \$20,000 bottle of champagne, this was a deliberate act. She is offering Jesus everything she has. By giving her most valuable possession to him, she is expressing her knowledge that what he's about to give of himself is for her.

What Mary does is beautiful, and Jesus wants everyone to know it. She is preparing him for burial. There is honor and kindness in her gesture. Jesus returns the honor by saying history will never forget her act of beauty. And we haven't.

Song: We Fall Down-[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ge9O\\_HOKcE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ge9O_HOKcE)

We fall down, we lay our crowns  
At the feet of Jesus.  
The greatness of mercy and love  
At the feet of Jesus.

We cry holy, holy, holy.  
We cry holy, holy, holy.  
We cry holy, holy, holy  
Is the lamb.

We fall down, we lay our crowns  
At the feet of Jesus.  
The greatness of mercy and love  
At the feet of Jesus.

We cry holy, holy, holy.  
We cry holy, holy, holy.  
We cry holy, holy, holy  
Is the lamb.

We cry holy, holy, holy.  
We cry holy, holy, holy.  
We cry holy, holy, holy  
Is the lamb.

## For the Kids

### ANOINTED FOR BURIAL

When Jesus was at Bethany, a guest of Simon the Leper, a woman came up to him as he was eating dinner and anointed him with a bottle of very expensive perfume. When the disciples saw what was happening, they were furious. "That's criminal! This could have been sold for a lot and the money handed out to the poor."

10-13

When Jesus realized what was going on, he intervened. "Why are you giving this woman a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives, but not me. When she poured this perfume on my body, what she really did was anoint me for burial. You can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she has just done is going to be remembered and admired."



What do think the perfume smelled like, that Mary used?

Why would Mary use such an expensive perfume?

What does this tell us about Jesus?