

From John's Gospel in the Bible
John 12, verses 1-3 (Good News Translation)



Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, the man he had raised from death. ² They prepared a dinner for him there, which Martha helped serve; Lazarus was one of those who were sitting at the table with Jesus. ³ Then Mary took a whole pint of a very expensive perfume made of pure nard, poured it on Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The sweet smell of the perfume filled the whole house.

Some notes to help:

- 'nard' is an aromatic, amber-coloured oil. It comes from a flowering plant which grows in the Himalayas of Nepal, China, and India.
- the cost of the ointment was worth about 300 denarii, about £30,000. Mary probably spent her life savings on it.